THE CANNON GOD EXAXION

砲神エグザクソン

STAGE (5)

KENICHI SONODA Presents

園田健一

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KC299

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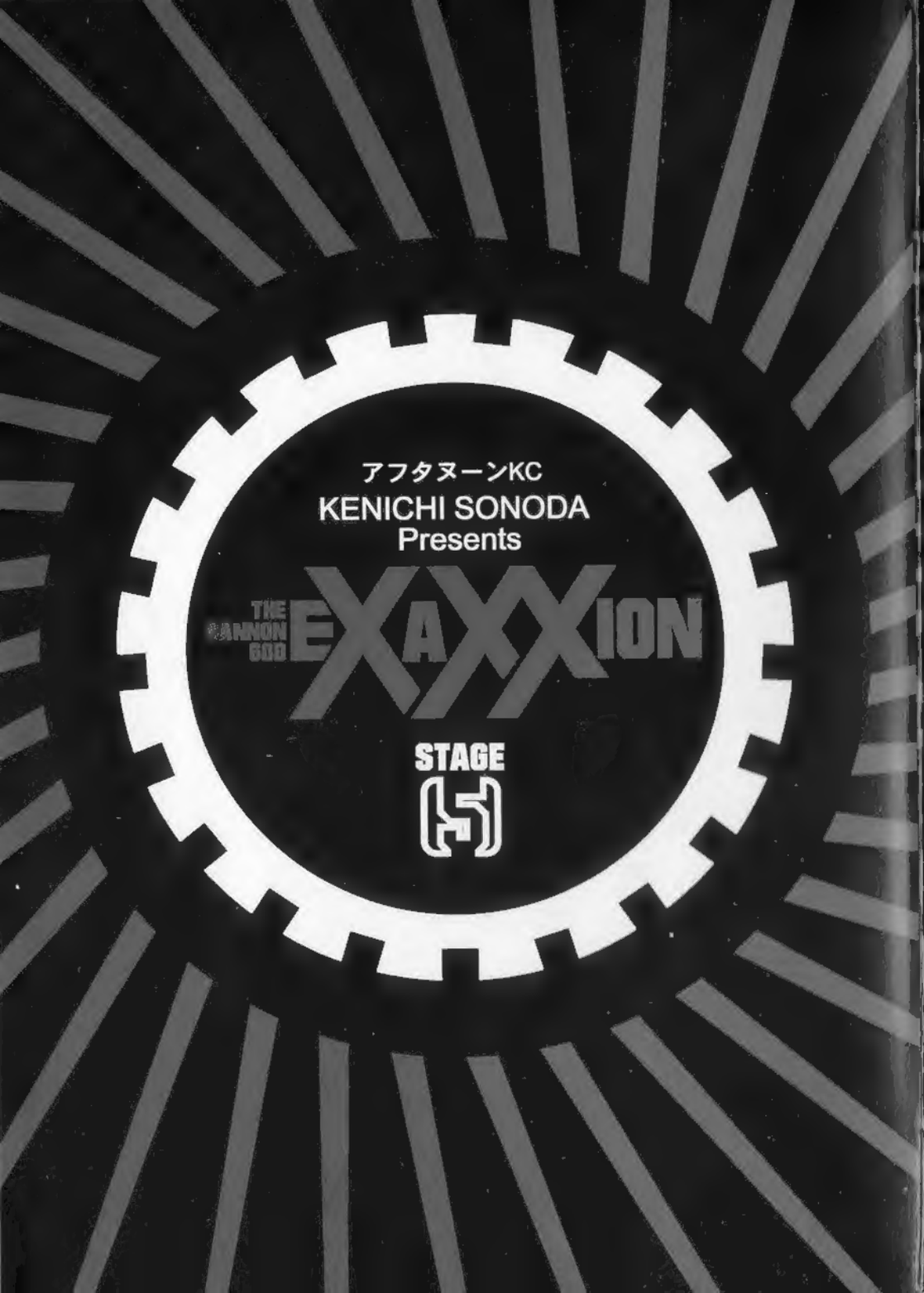
EXAXION THE CANNON GOD



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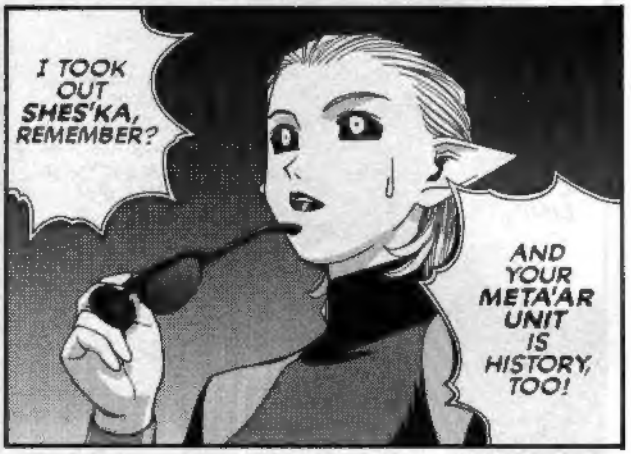
CANNON GOD EXAXXION

STAGE 5.1 story and art by Kenichi Sonoda

THNKK
WHAT WAS *THAT?* AN ENEMY *ATTACK* ...?
UNKNOWN, SIR! NOW RECON-STRUCTING THE BOGEY'S POSSIBLE *TRAJECTORY...*
POSSIBLY A *STEALTH WARHEAD,* WITH GRAVITY CONTROL ...?
CONTACT *ORBITAL COMMAND* AND DETERMINE IF WE HAVE AUTHORIZATION TO *RETURN FIRE* ON EARTHSIDE TARGETS!
YES, SIR!
ONLY MINOR *OUTER HULL* DAMAGE, SIR, TO PORTSIDE BLOCK 1... NO EFFECT ON *SHIP PERFOR-MANCE.*
FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL *HIT* US, DAMN IT!
SIR! ORBITAL COMMAND ORDERS US TO *HOLD OUR FIRE!*
FMPD
WELL, KEEP ALL BATTERIES LOCKED ON THAT *"EXAXXION"*... THIS MUST BE *THEIR* DOING.

RMBBB
ISAKA... CAN WE HACK INTO THE 'FALDIE LEADERS' COMM LINES?
AH, NOT BY BRUTE FORCE, MASTER HOICHI... BUT THEY MIGHT ALLOW US SOME ACCESS, IF WE ASK THEM...!
DO IT.
SIR! INCOMING COMMUNI-CATION REQUEST FROM EXAXXION'S PILOT!
WHA?!
HE'S CONTACT-ING US DIRECTLY ...?
PUT HIM ON!
VMMMM



*CFO: COMMERCIAL FLYING OBJECT

YOUR PEOPLE DON'T OPPOSE US.
YOUR PEOPLE WANT PEACE AND ORDER... I DOUBT THAT THEY CARE WHETHER HUMANS OR ALIENS BRING THIS ABOUT.

YOU'VE KILLED TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE WITH THAT MACHINE, HAVEN'T YOU?
CLEARLY, YOU ARE THE IMMINENT THREAT FACING THE EARTH! SURRENDER NOW!

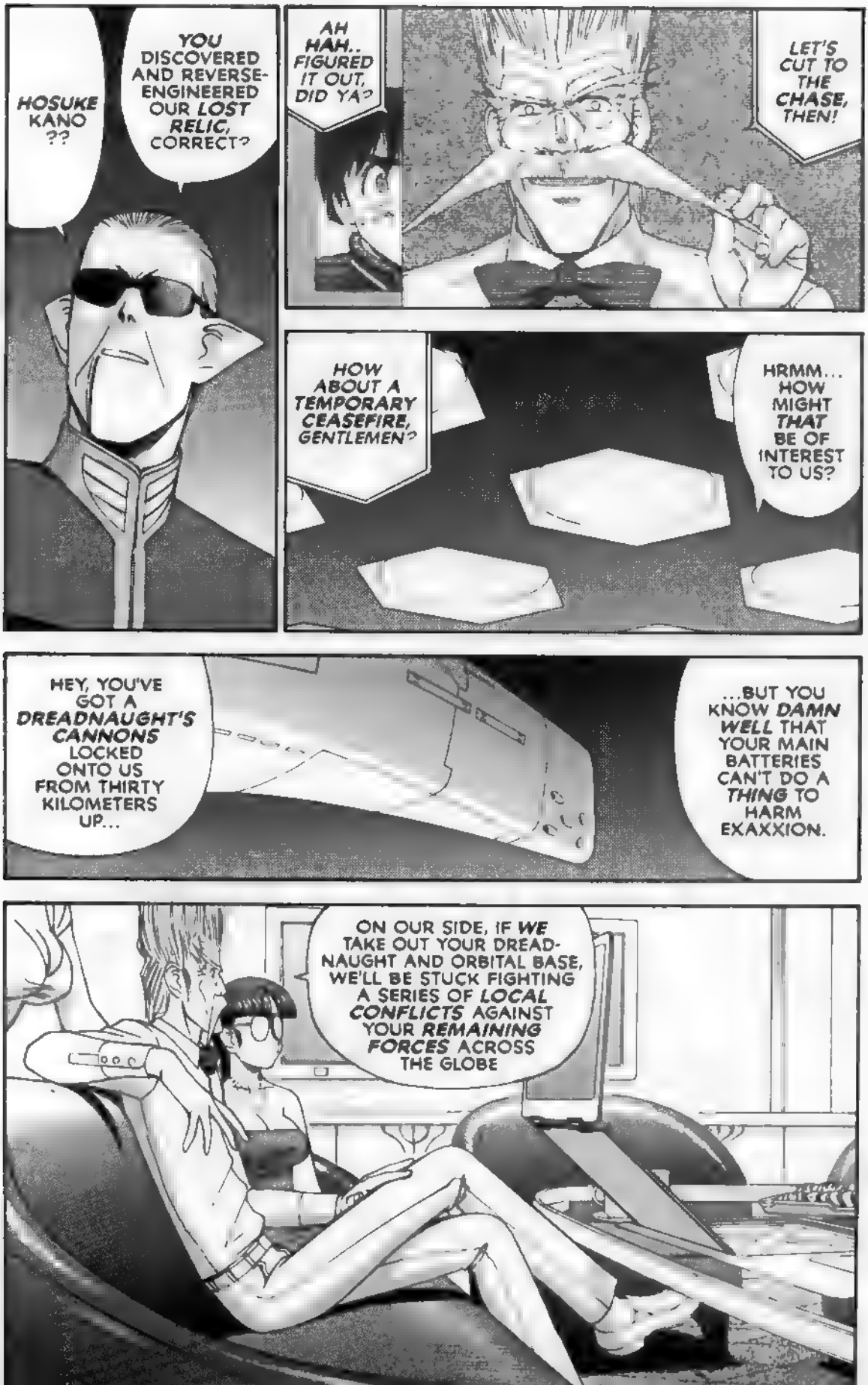
YOU ALIEN BASTARDS ARE GONNA KEEP BUTCHERING US, AND YOU KNOW IT!
YOU WERE PLANNING TO MASS-MURDER HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF US!

HOICHI "GUN" KANO – Reunited with ***Isaka*** and the ***Exxxion*** robot, Hoichi has just defeated the ***Riofaldian*** robot, ***Dagunov One***.

ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding ***Hoichi Kano*** as she's linked to the ***Exxxion*** robot.

OH, COME, NOW. ENSURING ORDER AND BALANCE WILL REQUIRE SOME...POPULATION ADJUSTMENTS. I BELIEVE YOU HUMANS HAVE MADE SIMILAR ADJUSTMENTS YOURSELVES, ON OCCASION...
GOD-DAMN YOU--!
WHAT'S THE KID PLAYING AT...?
SHRIP
GOD-DAMN YOU--!
I TOLD HIM TO RUN ALONG HOME, DIDN'T I?
VMMMM
!!
WHAT--?!

HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the ***Exaxxion*** super-robot for humanity's defense.


HOSUKE KANO ??
YOU DISCOVERED AND REVERSE-ENGINEERED OUR LOST RELIC, CORRECT?
AH HAH.. FIGURED IT OUT, DID YA?
LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE, THEN!
HOW ABOUT A TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE, GENTLEMEN?
HRMM... HOW MIGHT THAT BE OF INTEREST TO US?
HEY, YOU'VE GOT A DREADNAUGHT'S CANNONS LOCKED ONTO US FROM THIRTY KILOMETERS UP...
...BUT YOU KNOW DAMN WELL THAT YOUR MAIN BATTERIES CAN'T DO A THING TO HARM EXAXXION.
ON OUR SIDE, IF WE TAKE OUT YOUR DREAD-NAUGHT AND ORBITAL BASE, WE'LL BE STUCK FIGHTING A SERIES OF LOCAL CONFLICTS AGAINST YOUR REMAINING FORCES ACROSS THE GLOBE

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE HUMAN RACE... WE NEED A PAUSE SO THAT WE CAN TAKE THE PULSE OF THE PEOPLES' OPINIONS, YOU SEE.
AND YOU NEED TIME TO PATCH UP YOUR ORBITAL ELEVATOR, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S ESPECIALLY CRITICAL, NOW THAT YOUR GATE'S GONE AND IMPLODED
!!
AH... YOUR PROPOSAL IS ACCEPT-ABLE TO US.
OUTSTAND-ING... THEN RELEASE THE KIDS, AND STOP ATTACKING MY BASE.
CONNECT OFF
KSHHH
MEAN-WHILE, WE'LL WITHDRAW EXAXXION IMMEDIATELY.
REALLY, HOSUKE... A CEASEFIRE WITH THE RIOFAL-DIANS...?
NAH.
JUST NEED TO KEEP THE 'FALDIES QUIET UNTIL HOICHI RETURNS HERE SAFELY.

SIP
AND THEY'RE *WELL AWARE* THAT THEY CAN'T TAKE US OUT... NOT *YET*, ANYWAY.
SO... WHERE'S *ISAKA BETA?*
I'M *CHECK-ING* RIGHT NOW, SIR...
SHE SURVIVED THE EXACANNON'S *EMP* AND ACCELERATION FORCES, NEGOTIATED THE *ORBITAL INSERTION* SAFELY... SHE'S SUCCESSFULLY BOARDED THE *SA'AMOV* AND IS OPERATING IN *PASSIVE MODE*.
HEY, *OLD MAN ...!*
HOSUKE LABORATORY
ALL LINES ARE BUSY
YOU *HEAR ME,* OLD MAN?!
IGNOR-ING ME? WHY, THAT *PRICK!!*
HOSUKE LABORATORY
LL LINES ARE BU
AH, MASTER HOICHI? I CAN PERFORM A *GRAVITY JUMP* TO RETURN US TO HOME BASE...
BUT
MASTER HOSUKE IS DOING HIS *BEST* TO FREE YOUR CLASSMATES, YOU KNOW.
AND WE'RE *ENDANGERING* THE SURVIVING HUMAN POPULATION OF THE ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE BY *REMAINING* HERE
DAMN ...!
...

I'LL KEEP THE EXA-CANNON LOCKED ON THE SA'AMOV WHILE WE TRANSIT...
DO THE GRAVITY JUMP! TAKE US HOME, ISAKA!
YES, SIR!
FOOO

HERO

OH, NEARLY *FORGOT* ...!

HAVE YOU LAUNCHED THE *"HERO PROJECT"* YET, SIERRA?

DON'T YOU *WORRY,* OKAY? IT WAS UP AND RUNNING *WELL* BEFORE THEY JUMPED!

ISAKA LEFT *ANOTHER* SUBUNIT BEHIND, BACK ON THE RUNWAY...

WELL, THEN...
...ALL MEDICAL NANO-MACHINES LOADED...
...LET'S GO!
FWAP
GALAXION

SHING

BSHNK

EXAXXION

KAKKAKKAK

FSHOOM

SPLASH

GUEEK!

WHR

OOOM

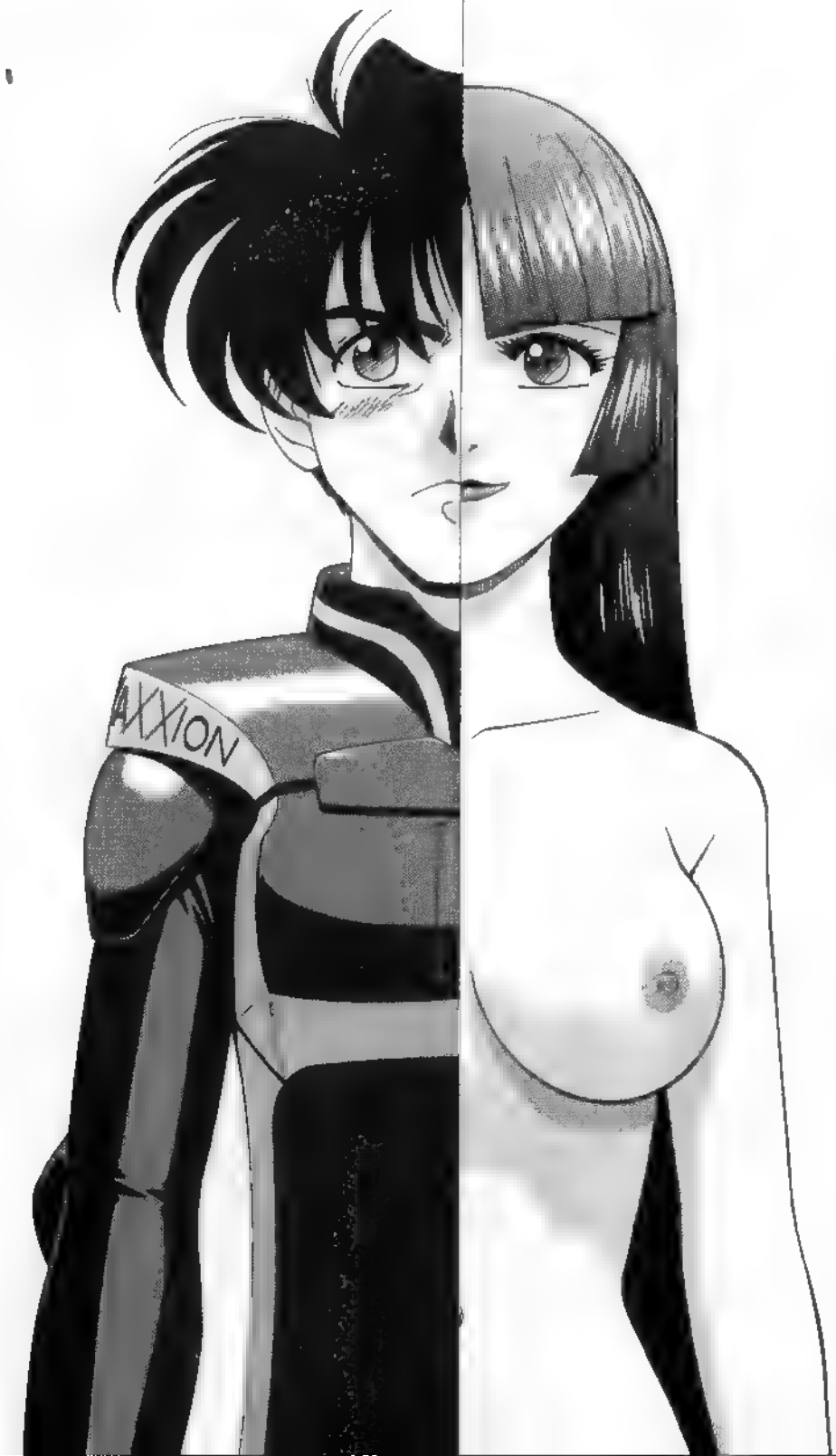
THEY'VE RECOVERED THE *HINO* FAMILY, SIR! THEY'LL BE LANDING HERE WITHIN *MINUTES!*

ONCE THE *HOMEWORLD* SENDS IN THEIR FORCES, WE'LL BECOME *IRRELEVANT!*

WE *HAVE* TO SEIZE KANO'S BASE BEFORE THE *FIRST DIVISION* CAN WARP IN!

EXAXXION *INBOUND,* SIR!

EXCEL-LENT! ROLL OUT THE *RED CARPET,* LADIES!


AXXION

PSHNKR

PRO

MOVEMENT ON THE PLATFORM, SIR...ANOTHER *EMP DISCHARGER* IS DEPLOYING!

ALERT THE *GROUND UNITS!* EM SHIELDS, *FULL POWER!*

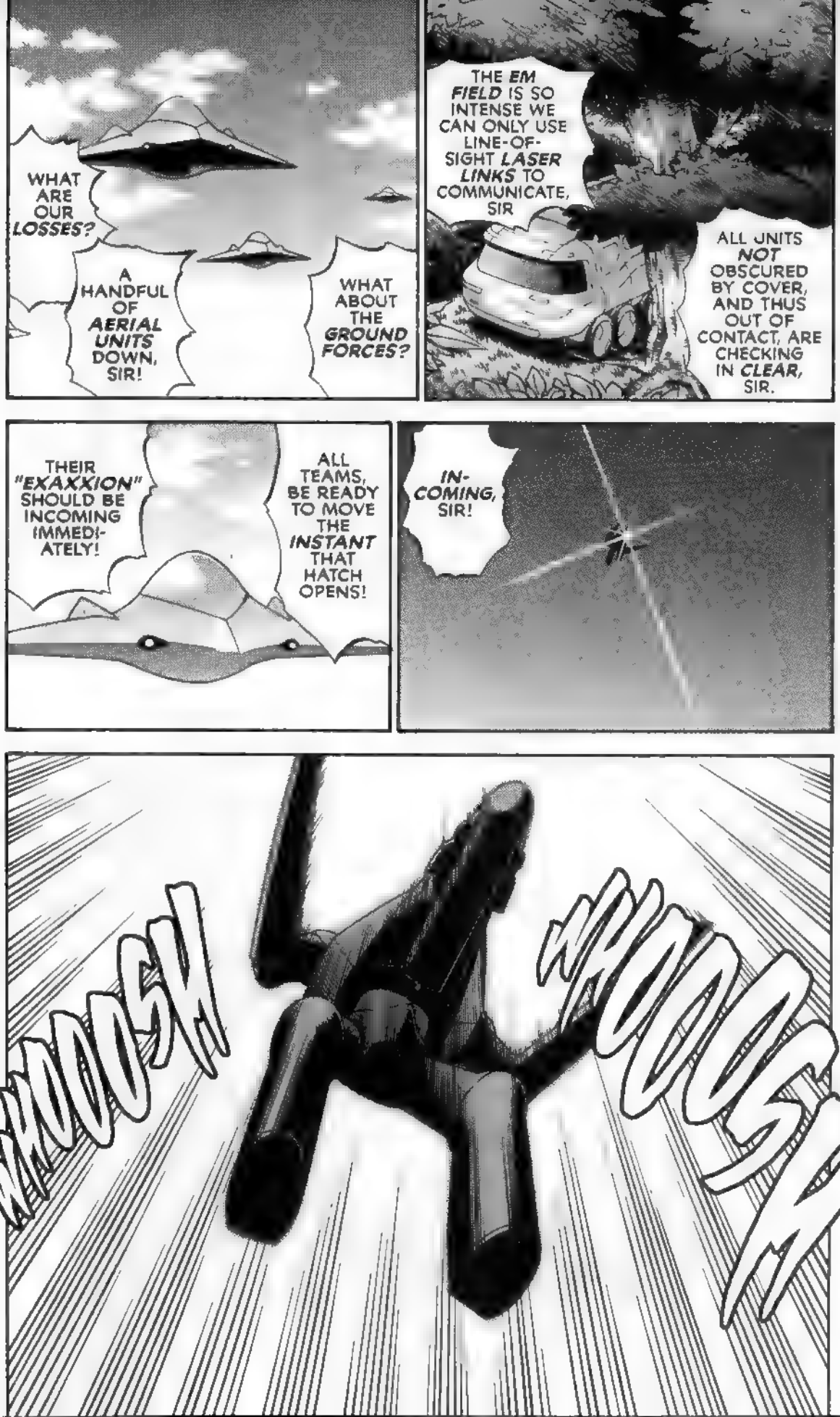
KLAKK

FSHHT

SKRAK

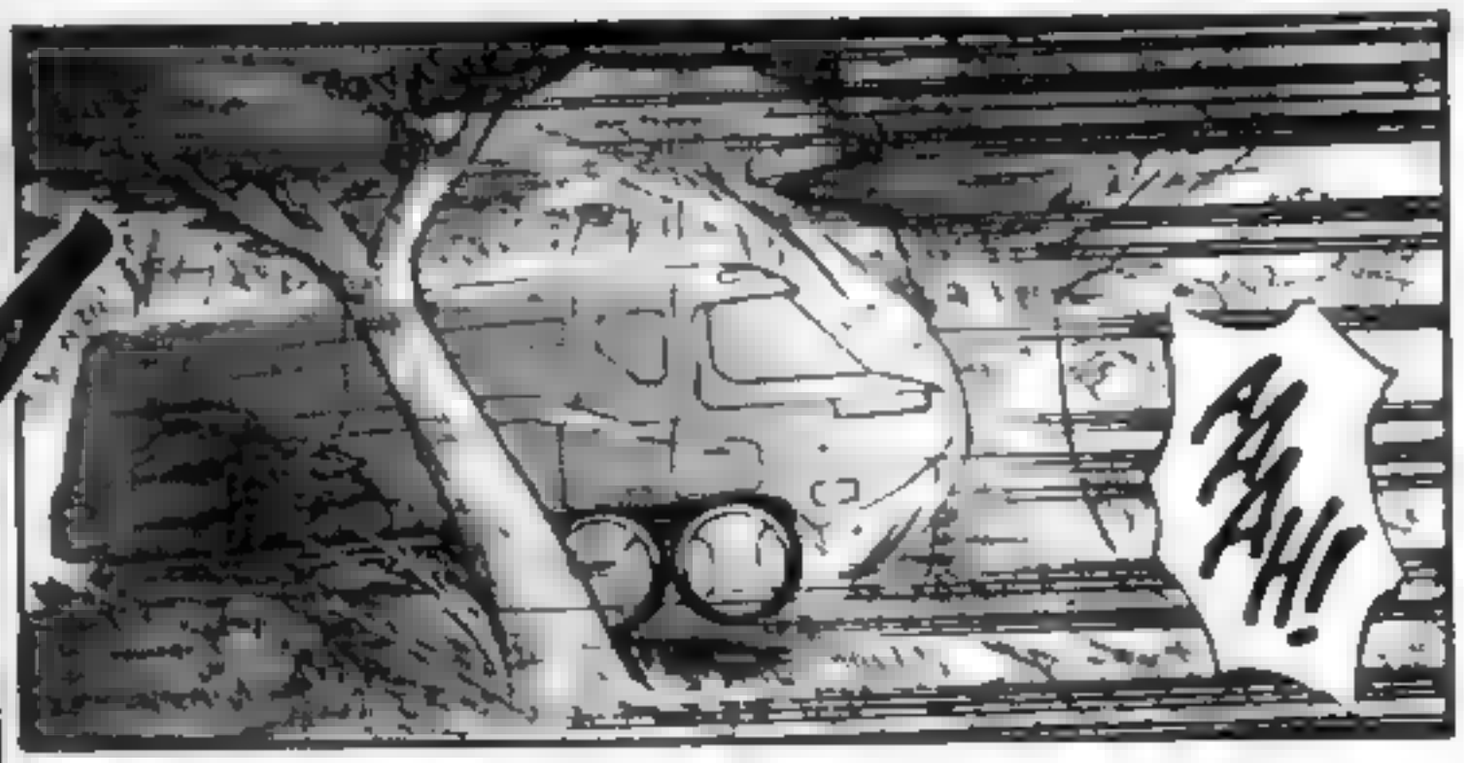
MM M

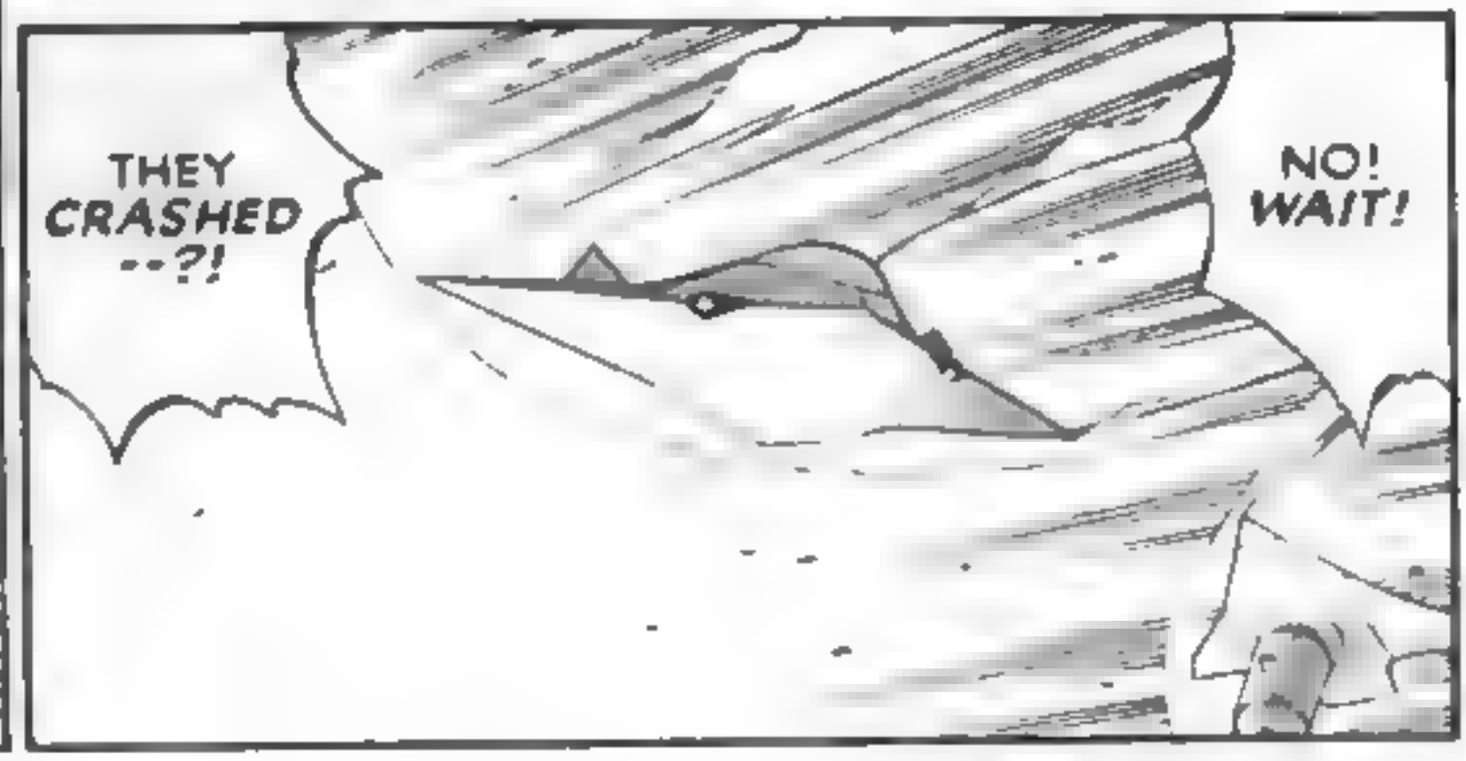
PSHNK


WHAT ARE OUR *LOSSES?*
A HANDFUL OF *AERIAL UNITS* DOWN, SIR!
WHAT ABOUT THE *GROUND FORCES?*
THE *EM FIELD* IS SO INTENSE WE CAN ONLY USE LINE-OF-SIGHT *LASER LINKS* TO COMMUNICATE, SIR
ALL UNITS *NOT* OBSCURED BY COVER, AND THUS OUT OF CONTACT, ARE CHECKING IN *CLEAR,* SIR.
THEIR *"EXAXXION"* SHOULD BE INCOMING IMMEDI-ATELY!
ALL TEAMS, BE READY TO MOVE THE *INSTANT* THAT HATCH OPENS!
IN-COMING, SIR!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

PROJECT
PALADIN

FSHOOM


PAAH!


THEY CRASHED --?!
NO! WAIT!

GRRRNNNN

RMBB RMBB RMBB

FWSHH

SHANG

RMBB RMBB RMBB

OPERATION COMPLETE IN 3.1 SECONDS, WITH NO INTRUDERS ABLE TO ENTER THE FACILITY.

GOTTA *LOVE* THAT INERTIAL CONTROL...

SO... ARE WE *READY,* LADIES?

KLNKK

THE *MOMENT* THAT WE CONFIRM THOSE KIDS ARE *FREE,* TAKE US ON THE AIR.

AND IF THEY *DON'T* RELEASE THEM ...?

WE BROAD-CAST *ANYWAY...* BUT GIVE 'EM *ONE HOUR,* FIRST.

SO, WE'LL ACCEPT THE *CEASEFIRE* PROPOSAL, FOR NOW... BUT WE'LL *STILL* PREPARE TO GO AFTER KANO'S BASE.

SUCHEKKU

NEW REPORT FROM OUR *SKIRMISH LINE,* SIR...THEY *WEREN'T* ABLE TO GET IN WHEN EXAXXION LANDED.

HMM... *SWAP OUT* THOSE FORCES, *ALL* OF THEM, WITH MY OWN *SUCHEKKU* BRIGADE. UNTIL THEN, HAVE THE CURRENT UNITS *HOLD POSITION.*

IF THAT BASTARD *KANO* EVEN KNOWS ABOUT THE *GATE,* HE'LL CERTAINLY KNOW ABOUT OUR *ASSAULT TEAMS,* TOO...

...BUT HE KNOWS THE GAME AS WELL AS WE DO... HE WON'T *ESCALATE RECKLESSLY* AND RISK DAMAGING *TERRAN RESOURCES* ANY MORE THAN *WE* WILL.

SO, HERE'S A *SCENARIO* TO EXPLAIN THE CEASE-FIRE...

WE'VE BEEN FORCED TO *ACCEPT* THE INSURGENT'S CONDITIONS, OUT OF OUR *DESPERATE DESIRE* TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE AND PROPERTY ...!

YES, SIR.. WE'LL *USE* THAT SPIN. AND, SIR... THE *HIGH SCHOOL* STUDENTS?

RELEASE THEM.

THE RIOFALDIAN GOVERNMENT *GLADLY* LIBERATES THE YOUNG INNOCENTS, TRAGICALLY IMPRISONED BY A *RENEGADE* COMMANDER. THAT SHOULD DO IT...

UNDER-STOOD, SIR. I'LL MAKE THE STUDENTS' RELEASE COINCIDE WITH THE *CREW REPLACE-MENTS* ON CFO-21.

AKANE HINO – A bright, investigative teen reporter, Akane is following in the footsteps of her older sister, ***Aoi***. Akane is deeply in love with ***Hoichi Kano***.

IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU AGAIN!
BUT MY HOICHI'S CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE ...!
UM, UH, NO! NOT AT ALL! I'M SURE THAT OUR AKANE'S BEEN A HANDFUL FOR YOU...
I LIKE YOUR NEW HAIR-STYLE.
SHINGG
GLP
WE'RE ACCEPTING YOUR SHELTER. FOR NOW.
BUT DON'T THINK THAT MEANS THAT WE'RE FRIENDS!
OH, MOM...HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? THE KANOS AREN'T, Y'KNOW, BAD... GUN HAS PROTECTED US, FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ..!
IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM, THEY'D HAVE KILLED US ALL BY NOW!
I KNOW THAT!

I KNOW IT, DEAR... YOU KEEP *TELLING* ME...

B-BUT YOUR MOTHER JUST WISHES THAT YOU AND *AOI* COULD LIVE IN *PEACE*... LIKE *NORMAL* PEOPLE...!

ALL OF US EATING TOGETHER OR SHOPPING, DOING *NORMAL* THINGS...WITH NO ONE *POINTING* AT US AND TALKING BEHIND OUR BACKS...!

IF...IF WE REALLY *JOIN* THESE PEOPLE... AND THIS *WAR* DRAGS ON...OR IF THEY *LOSE*...

...WE'LL NEVER... NEVER GET THAT *NORMAL LIFE* BACK... WILL WE...?

OH, *MOM*...

HOICHI... YOU STILL DON'T KNOW IF *AKANE'S SISTER* IS SAFE, DO YOU?

...*NO*, SIR.

YOU *MUST* FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER...

...AND BRING HER *BACK HERE*, TO SAFETY.

DO *THAT*, AND OUR FAMILY, *ALL* OF US, WILL BE YOUR ALLIES.

WHAT ...? BUT, YOU *CAN'T...*

THERE'S NO GOING BACK *NOW*, HONEY.

WE HAVE TO MAKE THE *BEST* CHOICES WITHIN OUR POWER, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR *CHILDREN.*

I'LL *DO IT*, SIR.

I'LL BRING *AOI* BACK HERE, SAFE AND SOUND.

ARE AKANE AND MY MOM AND DAD SAFE...?

IN THAT *LAST* FIGHT, I TOOK OUT THEIR BOSS *AND* HIS GIANT ROBOT!

I'M *TELLING* YOU, SIR...

...WE'RE GONNA *WIN* THIS WAR!
EXAXXION WAS BUILT BY MY, UH, *GRANDPA HOSUKE*... HE HAS *ALL* THE TECHNOLOGY WE NEED TO BEAT 'EM!
AND WITH THAT *ENEMY ROBOT* GONE, WE'RE NOW THE ONLY ONES WITH AN *XXX UNIT*... THAT'S THE *ULTIMATE WEAPON!*
WE'LL WIN...I *PROMISE* YOU.
I'LL *TRUST* YOU.
BUT NO *HAND-SHAKES* UNTIL MY DAUGHTER'S BEEN RETURNED TO ME.
...*RIGHT.*

THE HINOS' *ROOMS* ARE READY, MASTER.

PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO *GUIDE* YOU TO THEM.

AT YOUR SERVICE ...!

KLAK!

OH! GOSH! PLEASE *DO...!*

HONEY ...!

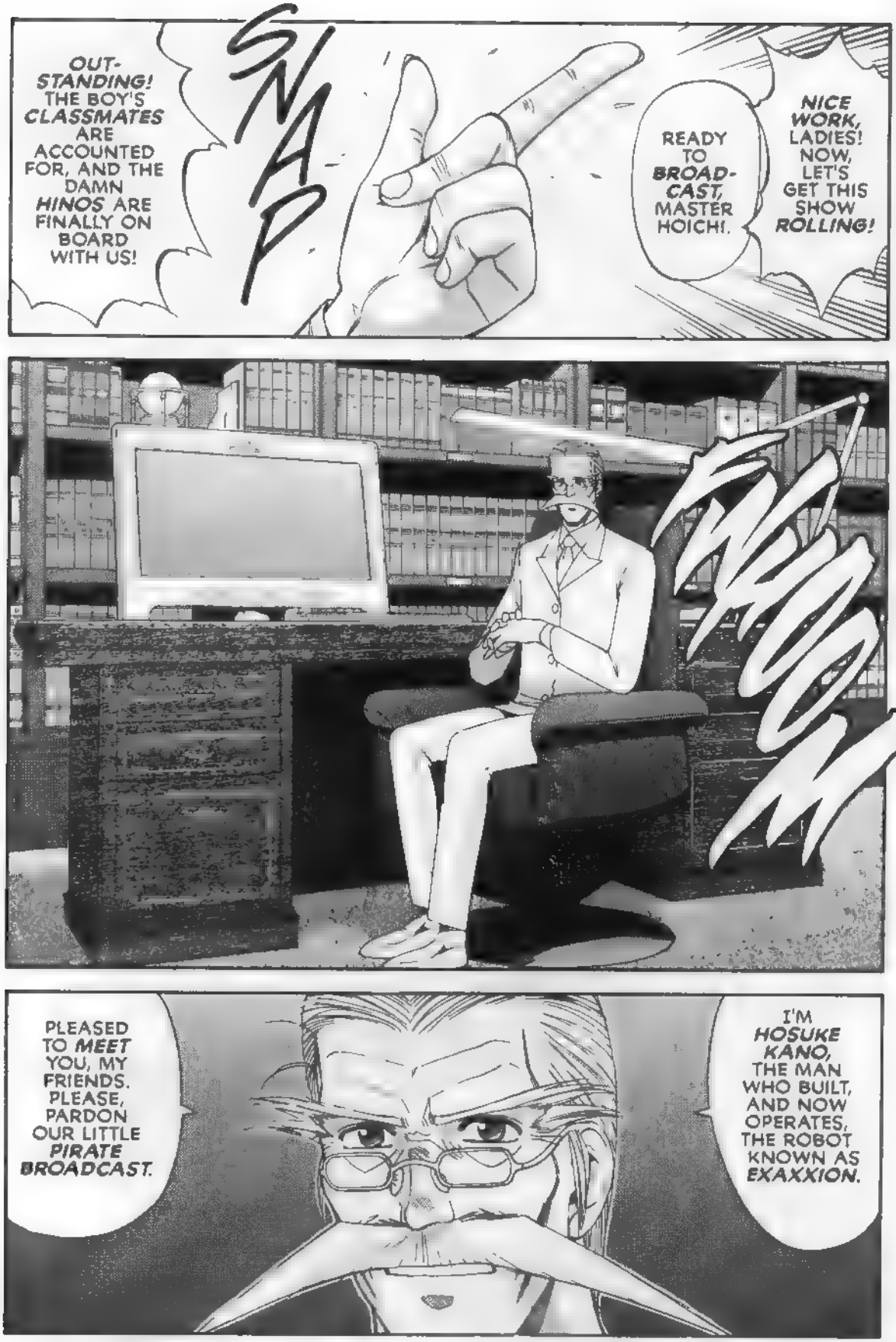
OH! HOW *ADOR-ABLE!*

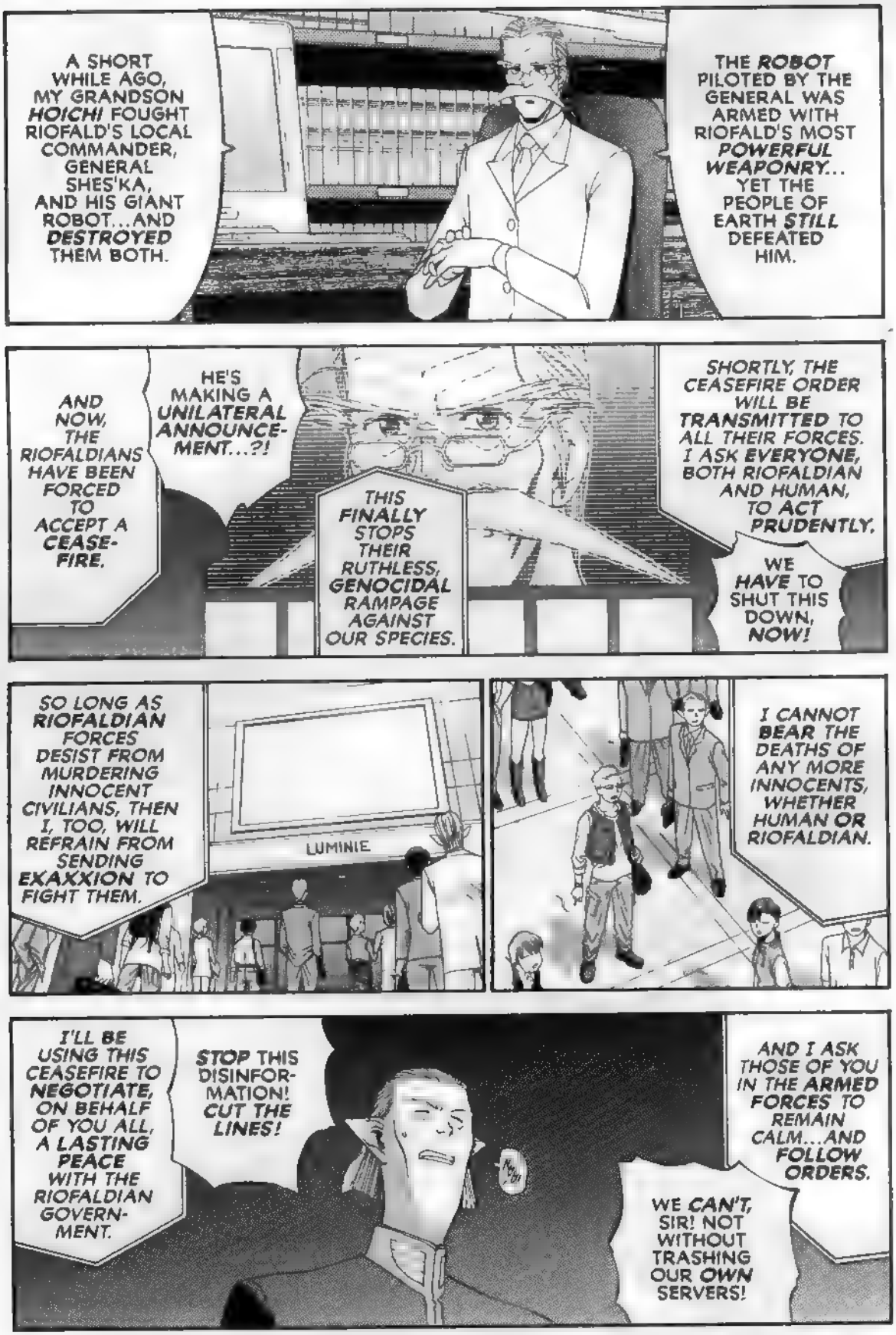
HUH...SO THE KID TOLD THEM WE'D *WIN?*

HE *IS* BECOMING MORE PROACTIVE, SIR...

EXCELLENT. MAYBE HE'S *FINALLY* GROWING INTO THE ROLE...

MASTER HOSUKE! *THE CFO JUST RELEASED THE* ***HOWA HIGH*** *STUDENTS...THEY'RE ARRIVING AT GENERAL HOSPITAL THREE* ***RIGHT NOW!***


OUT-STANDING! THE BOY'S CLASSMATES ARE ACCOUNTED FOR, AND THE DAMN HINOS ARE FINALLY ON BOARD WITH US!
SNAP
READY TO BROAD-CAST, MASTER HOICHI.
NICE WORK, LADIES! NOW, LET'S GET THIS SHOW ROLLING!
FROOM
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MY FRIENDS. PLEASE, PARDON OUR LITTLE PIRATE BROADCAST.
I'M HOSUKE KANO, THE MAN WHO BUILT, AND NOW OPERATES, THE ROBOT KNOWN AS EXAXXION.


A SHORT WHILE AGO, MY GRANDSON HOICHI FOUGHT RIOFALD'S LOCAL COMMANDER, GENERAL SHES'KA, AND HIS GIANT ROBOT...AND DESTROYED THEM BOTH.
THE ROBOT PILOTED BY THE GENERAL WAS ARMED WITH RIOFALD'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPONRY... YET THE PEOPLE OF EARTH STILL DEFEATED HIM.
AND NOW, THE RIOFALDIANS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT A CEASE-FIRE.
HE'S MAKING A UNILATERAL ANNOUNCE-MENT...?!
THIS FINALLY STOPS THEIR RUTHLESS, GENOCIDAL RAMPAGE AGAINST OUR SPECIES.
SHORTLY, THE CEASEFIRE ORDER WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO ALL THEIR FORCES. I ASK EVERYONE, BOTH RIOFALDIAN AND HUMAN, TO ACT PRUDENTLY.
WE HAVE TO SHUT THIS DOWN, NOW!
SO LONG AS RIOFALDIAN FORCES DESIST FROM MURDERING INNOCENT CIVILIANS, THEN I, TOO, WILL REFRAIN FROM SENDING EXAXXION TO FIGHT THEM.
LUMINIE
I CANNOT BEAR THE DEATHS OF ANY MORE INNOCENTS, WHETHER HUMAN OR RIOFALDIAN.
I'LL BE USING THIS CEASEFIRE TO NEGOTIATE, ON BEHALF OF YOU ALL, A LASTING PEACE WITH THE RIOFALDIAN GOVERN-MENT.
STOP THIS DISINFOR-MATION! CUT THE LINES!
AND I ASK THOSE OF YOU IN THE ARMED FORCES TO REMAIN CALM...AND FOLLOW ORDERS.
WE CAN'T, SIR! NOT WITHOUT TRASHING OUR OWN SERVERS!
TO BE CONTINUED...!

A SHORT WHILE AGO, MY GRANDSON *HOICHI* FOUGHT RIOFALD'S LOCAL COMMANDER, GENERAL SHES'KA, AND HIS GIANT ROBOT ..AND *DESTROYED* THEM BOTH.

THE *ROBOT* PILOTED BY THE GENERAL WAS ARMED WITH RIOFALD'S MOST *POWERFUL WEAPONRY*... YET THE PEOPLE OF EARTH *STILL* DEFEATED HIM.

*AND NOW, THE RIOFALDIANS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT A **CEASE-FIRE.***

*HE'S MAKING A **UNILATERAL ANNOUNCE-MENT...?!***

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LUMINIE

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*I'LL BE USING THIS CEASEFIRE TO **NEGOTIATE**, ON BEHALF OF YOU ALL, A **LASTING PEACE** WITH THE RIOFALDIAN GOVERN-MENT.*

STOP THIS DISINFOR-MATION! *CUT THE LINES!*

*AND I ASK THOSE OF YOU IN THE **ARMED FORCES** TO REMAIN CALM...AND **FOLLOW ORDERS.***

WE *CAN'T*, SIR! NOT WITHOUT TRASHING OUR *OWN* SERVERS!

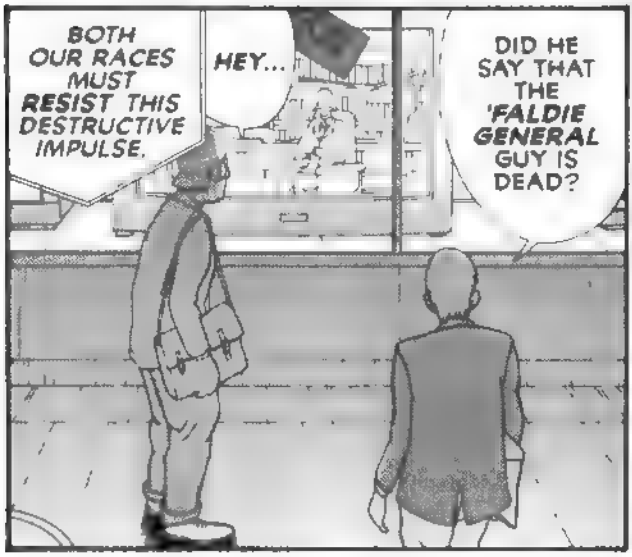
TO BE CONTINUED...!

CANNON GOD EXAXXION

STAGE 5.3 story & art KENICHI SONODA
(Note: This the real first page of this chapter D/H Cut it out >.<)

CANNON GOD EXXION
STAGE 5.3

Bargain 21
YET DESPITE OUR STRUGGLES TO ARRANGE THIS CEASEFIRE, THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE SOME, BOTH RIOFALDIAN AND HUMAN, WHO WILL CHOOSE TO CONTINUE FIGHTING.


BOTH OUR RACES MUST RESIST THIS DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSE.
HEY...
DID HE SAY THAT THE 'FALDIE GENERAL GUY IS DEAD?

VRRRMMMB

THIS CONFLICT MUST END!

?!

HEY! THE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCE-MENTS... THEY'VE ALL CHANGED!

I KNOW! AND HQ SAYS THEY DON'T KNOW HOW THE HELL IT'S HAPPEN-ING!

DID THE SPACE PEOPLE LOSE, PAPA?

IT LOOKS THAT WAY, PUMPKIN.

ISN'T THE CURFEW STILL IN EFFECT ...?

IGNORING THIS TRUCE AND PURSUING FURTHER COMBAT OPERATIONS WILL ONLY CAUSE MORE SUFFERING.

HUMANS AND RIOFALDIANS MUST NOW JOIN FORCES... AND WHY IS THAT, YOU MIGHT ASK?

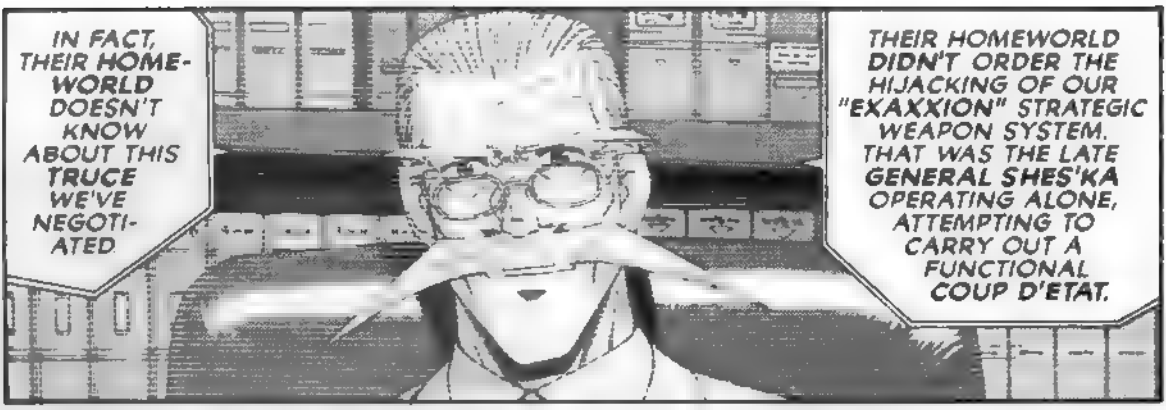
HOSUKE KANO Hoichi's father, a bold and yet perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the *Exaxxion* super robot for humanity's defense

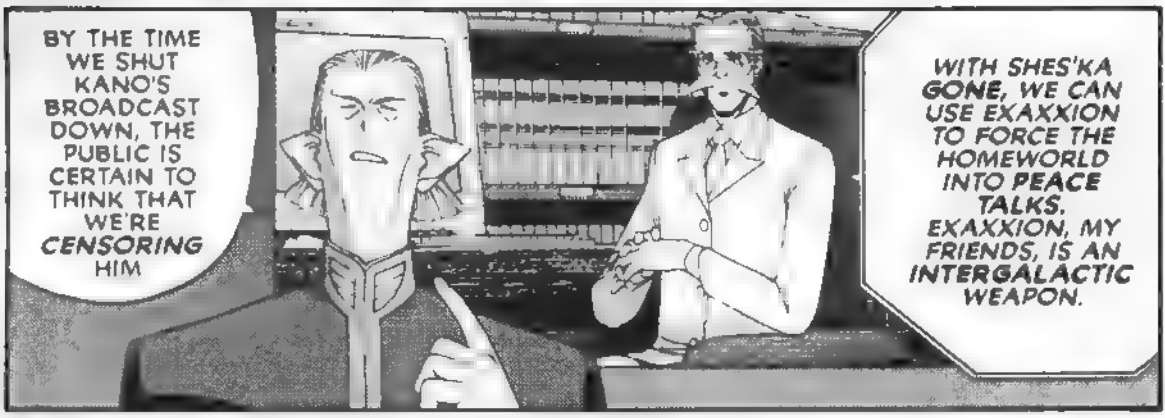
THE *REASON* IS THAT THE GREATEST THREAT FACING US *ISN'T* REPRESENTED BY THE RIOFALDIAN FORCES ON EARTH.
RATHER, THE *TRUE* THREAT IS POSED BY THE RIOFALDIAN *HOMEWORLD GOVERNMENT.*

!!
HE'S REVEALING *EVERYTHING!*

WE CAN'T ALLOW KANO TO *DO* THIS!
CRASH THE *SERVERS!* TRASH THEM *ALL!*

CAPTAIN RYA'AM! ORDER THE MAIN DATALINES *SEVERED!*
Y-*YES,* SIR!
WAIT !!


IN FACT, THEIR HOMEWORLD DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS TRUCE WE'VE NEGOTIATED
THEIR HOMEWORLD DIDN'T ORDER THE HIJACKING OF OUR "EXAXXION" STRATEGIC WEAPON SYSTEM. THAT WAS THE LATE GENERAL SHES'KA OPERATING ALONE, ATTEMPTING TO CARRY OUT A FUNCTIONAL COUP D'ETAT.


BY THE TIME WE SHUT KANO'S BROADCAST DOWN, THE PUBLIC IS CERTAIN TO THINK THAT WE'RE CENSORING HIM
WITH SHES'KA GONE, WE CAN USE EXAXXION TO FORCE THE HOMEWORLD INTO PEACE TALKS. EXAXXION, MY FRIENDS, IS AN INTERGALACTIC WEAPON.

THIS WILL REQUIRE THE COOPERATION OF RIOFALD'S EARTH ADMINISTRATION.
UNDERSTOOD, SIR
PSYOPS WILL BE TASKED TO UNDERMINE HOSUKE KANO'S CREDIBILITY.
STILL, WE'RE READY TO DISABLE THE DATALINES WHENEVER REQUIRED...
GOOD.

WE NEED A PLAN TO CRACK OPEN KANO'S *BASE!*

THERE *MUST* BE A WEAK LINK IN HIS SECURITY!

I MUST REQUEST PATIENCE FROM YOU ALL, TO AVOID FURTHER CONFLICT...

AND GET THE DAMNED *ORBITAL ELEVATOR* REPAIRED!

WE NEED A NEW *POWER FEED* TO THE ANCHOR-AGE!

MORE THAN THAT, WE NEED TO REESTABLISH THE ELEVATOR'S *DIRECT DATALINKS* TO ORBIT! AS WE'VE SEEN, USING *SATELLITES* IS AN UNACCEPTABLE *SECURITY RISK!*

THAT GUY IN THE BLACK POWER-SUIT IS *HERE?*

YOU MEAN THAT KID *KANO?*

AND HE'S PERFORM-ING *MIRACLES!*

A-4

HUH? BUT HE'S A DAMN *TERRORIST!*

DON'T BE *RIDICU-LOUS!* HE'S HEALING THE *INJURED* RIGHT NOW!

LOOK! THAT GUY HE TOUCHED... HE'S *BREATHING* AGAIN!

NO *WAY!*

TELL US WHERE YOUR *WOUNDED* ARE!

MR. KANO WILL *TREAT* THEM!

JUST A MINUTE AGO, THE *BONES* WERE STICKING OUT OF HER LEG !

NOW EVERY-THING'S CLOSED UP AND HEALED, AND SHE'S *MOVING* THE LEG!

ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding ***Hoichi Kano*** She is using a nanotech disguise to appear as ***Hoichi Kano*** while she heals the injured at the ***Orbital Elevator Base***.

HEY, KID! OVER *HERE!*

SHE JUST *PASSED OUT!*

HMM... *INTRA-CRANIAL BLEEDING.*

HOW DID YOU *KNOW* THAT ...?

SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT...I'VE INJECTED HER WITH *MEDICAL NANO-MACHINES.*

LET HER *REST,* OKAY?

Y- YES, *SIR...*

EXAXXION

WHAT'S THAT? THE EVENT HALL? *NINE* OF THEM?

E-4

YOU'VE LOCATED MORE *INJURED?*

YES, SIR! THEY'RE IN THE *EVENT HALL* LOUNGE...

TAKE ME THERE. *NOW.*

NO YOU DON'T, *HOICHI KANO!*

NO *SUDDEN MOVES!*

DROP YOUR *WEAPONS!*

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?* HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE *NEWS?*

THERE'S A *CEASEFIRE* ON, DAMN IT!

THIS IS A *POLICE ACTION,* UNDER-STAND?!

THAT WHOLE *SUIT'S* A WEAPON... REMOVE IT *AT ONCE,* KANO!

SKRAKK

AAA...

I'M ONLY PERFORM-ING *FIRST AID,* HERE...

WH-*WHAT?!* ONSITE MEDICAL CARE IS *OUR* RESPONSI-BILITY!

THEN *DO* YOUR JOB, HUH?

YOU HAVE ACCESS TO EVEN *BETTER* MEDICAL TECH, RIGHT?

YEAH! *SHOW US!*

WE'LL HELP YOU ONLY *AFTER* WE'VE TREATED OUR *OWN* WOUNDED!

LET'S GO, HUH?

THANK YOU SO MUCH ...!

I SAID, DON'T MOVE--

THANK

EXAXXION

THUD

SPLSHH

WHAT WAS THAT?

THAT 'FALDIE JUST TRIED TO OPEN FIRE, AND...

HIS GUN EXPLODED?

HE DESERVED IT...FOR TRYING TO STOP THE HEALER!

CHECK IT OUT! HE'S BLEEDING FROM THE HEAD!

TAKE THAT, 'FALDIE BASTARD!

SHUT UP, YOU MONKEYS!

AH...

KLAK KLAK KLAK

WH-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* ...?

UH...

KLAK

EXAXXION

KLAK KLAK

PLEASE... STAY *OUT* OF MY WAY.

H-*HEY!* DON'T HELP THE *ENEMY!*

PSHT

HE'S *NOT* THE ENEMY.

HE'S JUST ANOTHER *CASUALTY*... AND DURING THE WAR, I CAUSED *THOUSANDS* OF THEM.

I *RESISTED* THE OCCUPATION AND *STOPPED* THE 'FALDIE LEADERS' GENOCIDE.

NOW, THE *TRUCE* IS IN EFFECT... AND I INTEND TO *SAVE* LIVES, INSTEAD OF *TAKING* THEM.

LET'S GO HELP THOSE *PEOPLE* YOU MENTIONED, MISS.

OH, YES... *YES!*

TMPD

HE'S SO *AWE-SOME!*

IS HE *REALLY* A MASS MURDERER?

DID YOU *SEE* THAT?

MAYBE THAT WAS ALL *'FALDIE PROPA-GANDA...?*

TOO COOL!

=NGH=

ARE... ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*

HEY, KANO HAS *MY* SUPPORT.

THE RIOFALDIANS *TALK* SO HIGH AND MIGHTY, BUT HAVE THEY SENT EVEN *ONE* DOCTOR TO HELP US?

GOTTA *AGREE* WITH YOU...

SAME *HERE.*

Y'KNOW, I THOUGHT *KANO* DIDN'T HAVE A *CHANCE...*

...BUT THEN HE *WHIPPED* SHES'KA AND FORCED THE 'FALDIES TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE! HE'S A *CONTENDER!*

MY MONEY'S ON THE *KID!*

MINE, TOO!

I'M WITH *YOU...*

ME TOO, ME TOO!

YOU *SAID* IT!

THAT'S *RIGHT!*

=NNHH=

HUH...? *WHUHH ...?*

WHOOSH!

OH! YOU'RE *AWAKE!*

WHAT A *RELIEF!* YOU WERE HURT *VERY BADLY...*

...BUT THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT, THAT *HOICHI KANO,* SAVED YOU!

HOICHI ...?

HUH? YOU WANT TO, UH, *REST* BEFORE DINNER ...?

CAN I COME IN OR *NOT*, HOICHI?

TO BE CONTINUED...!

SO, UH. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR *GLASSES?*

I HAD ISAKA GIVE ME *CONTACTS!*

DID YOU LIKE THE GLASSES *BETTER* ...?

NAHH.

...!!

YOU WERE *RIGHT* GUN THE RIOFALDIANS *WERE* INVADERS, AFTER ALL!

SFX: THAPP

Y- *YEAH.*

GLPP

SO, YOU REMEMBER WHAT I *PROMISED* YOU, BACK THEN ?

SFX: FWSHH

SFX: FMPP

GUN!

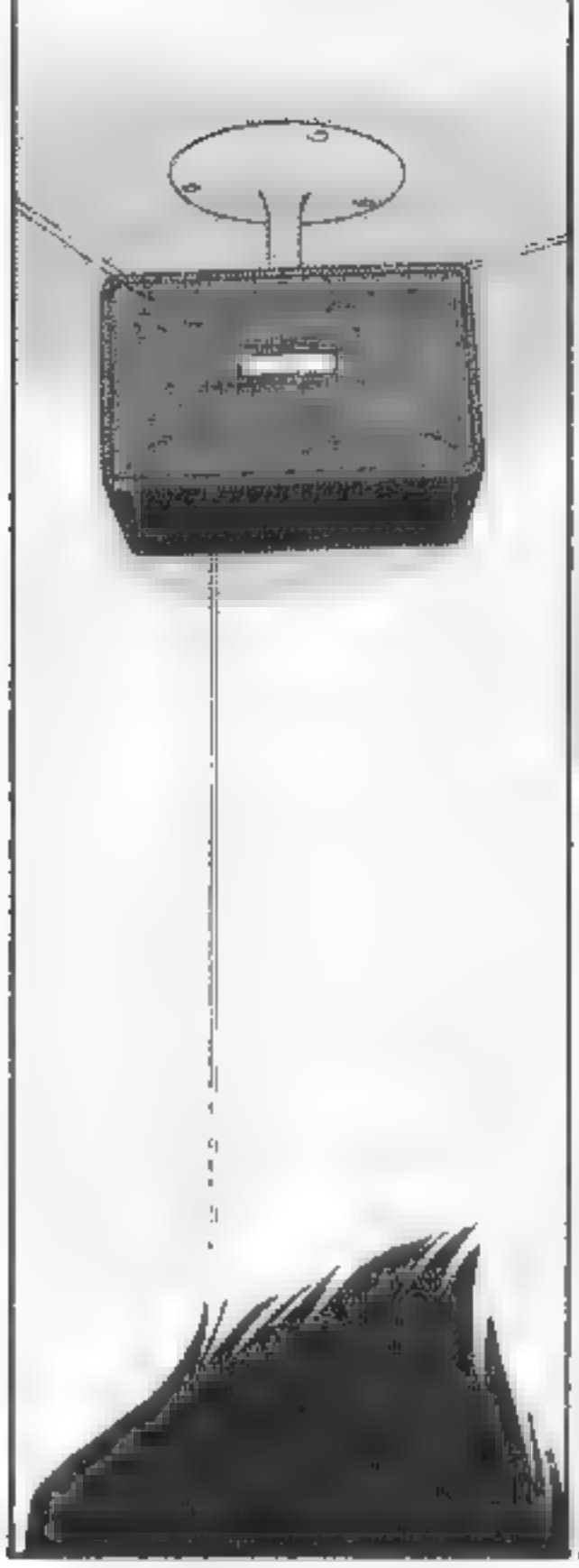
THAPP

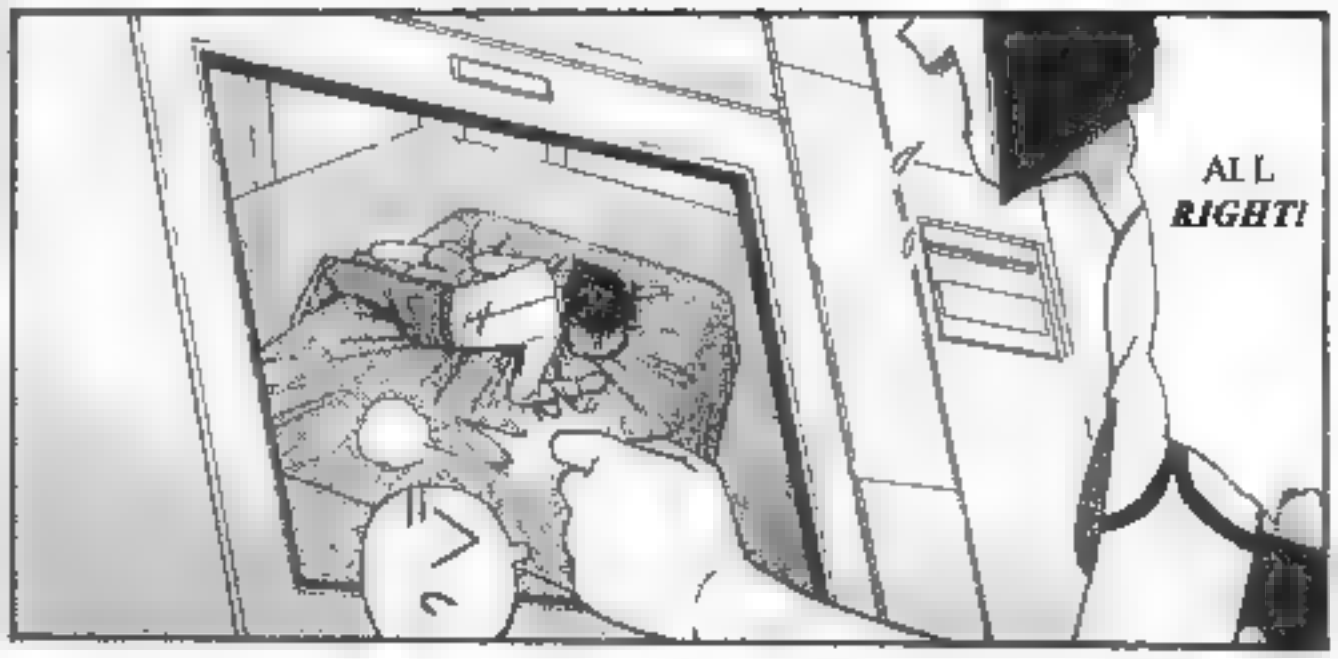
AKANE ?

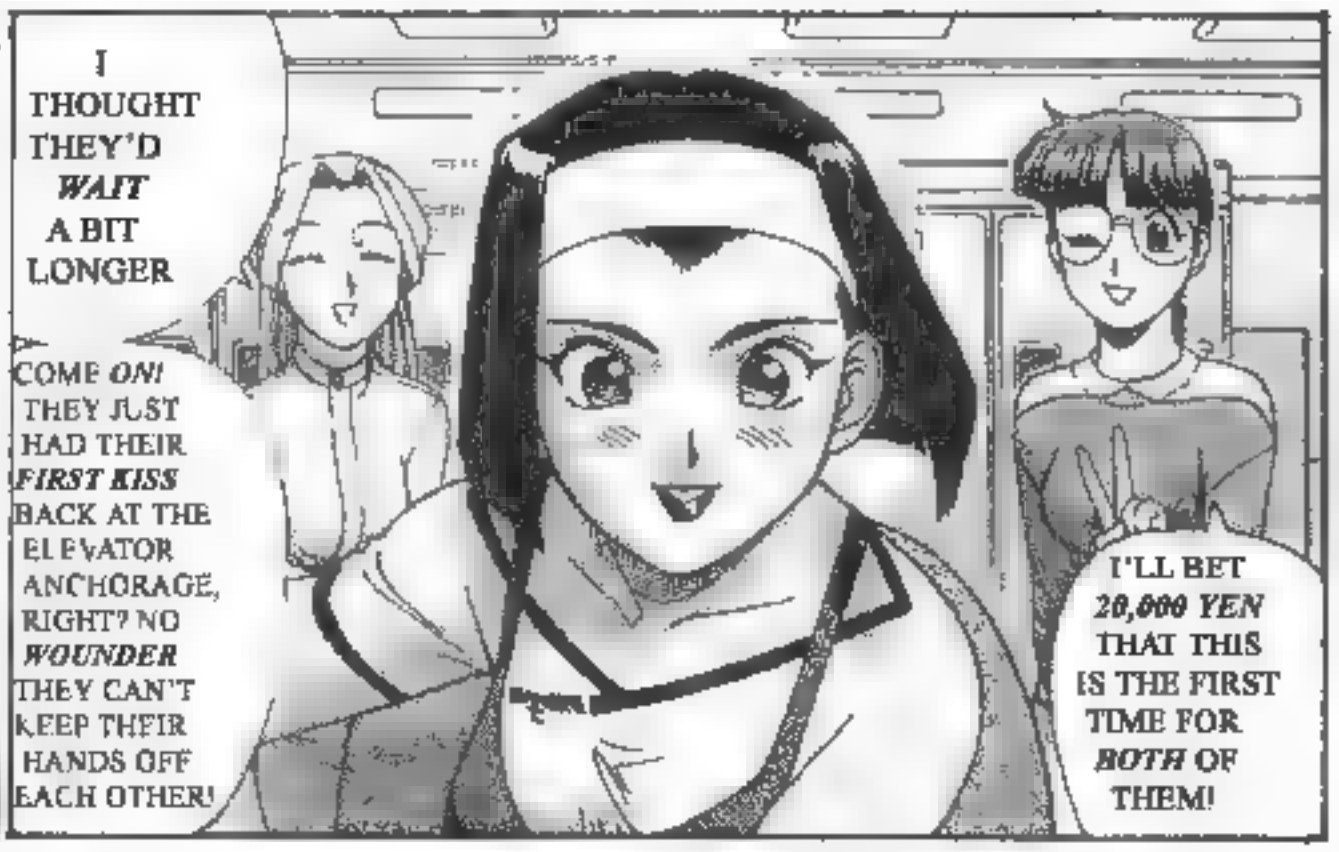
DON'T START *THERE*, OKAY ? START

HERE

MMM

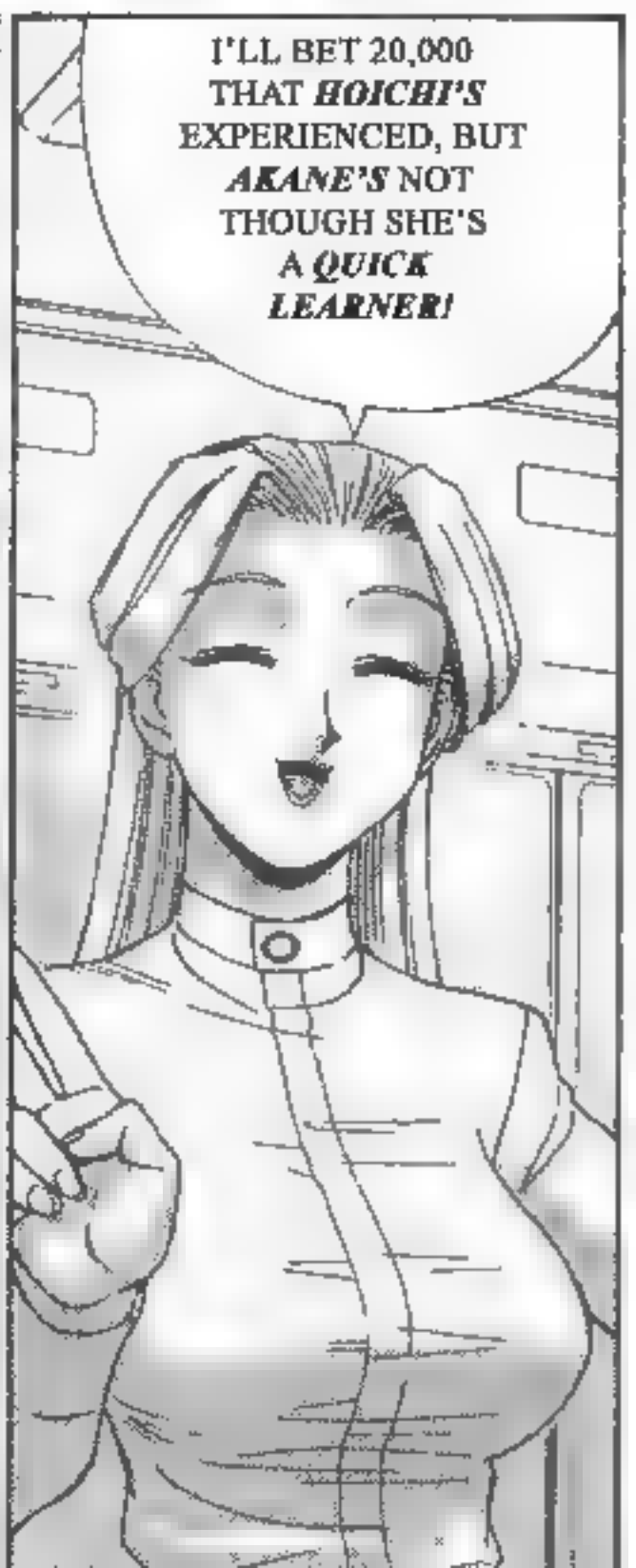



ALL
RIGHT!


I THOUGHT THEY'D *WAIT* A BIT LONGER
COME *ON!* THEY JUST HAD THEIR *FIRST KISS* BACK AT THE ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE, RIGHT? NO *WOUNDER* THEY CAN'T KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF EACH OTHER!
I'LL BET *20,000 YEN* THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME FOR *BOTH* OF THEM!

THAT'S *WAY* TOO EASY!
20,000 YEN SAY'S THEY'RE BOTH VIRGINS *AND* THE POOR BOY'S PERFORMENCE ENDS, SHALL WE SAY, *PREMATURE-LY..?*

THEN MY 20,000'S YEN ON A *SUCCESSFUL* PERFOR-MANCE!


I'LL BET 20,000 THAT *HOICHI'S* EXPERIENCED, BUT *AKANE'S* NOT THOUGH SHE'S A *QUICK LEARNER!*

GUN, *PLEASE* TURN OUT THE LIGHTS

SFX WHOOSH

JEEZ!

TAK TAK TAK

NIGHT VISION CAMERA *ON*, COLOR COMPENSATION *ON*

THERE WE WON'T MISS A THING *NOW!*

SFX SHPP

W-WAIT A MINUTE IS THIS *WEIRD* ...?

STILL HAVE TO *GROW* SOME *MORE...*

THIS IS TO *SOON...*

AH

MM

GUN-CHAN, WAIT A MINUTE . !"

WH-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*, DOWN THERE ? IT'S NOT

OH, *MY* ♥

OUR HOICHI *DOES* HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE!

"HAHH"

"HAHH"

"HAHH"

AKANE

I WANT YOU TO KNOW

THIS *ISN'T* ABOUT YOUR *PROMISE*...

I'M SO *HAPPY*.

AH !

HERE WE *GO*.

SFX SHMPP

OWW, OWW, ***OWW!***

OH, ***HO!*** SO SHE ***WAS*** A VIRGIN, AFTER ALL.

DAMN, WHAT GREAT ***VIDEO***... HIGH-DEFINITION ***ROCKS!*** ♥

COME ON AKANE YOU CAN ***HANDLE*** IT!

GUN, *PLEASE*.. WAIT A SECOND!

IT REALLY H- *HURTS!*

CHKK

I'M STILL... NOT EVEN . *IN...*

STOP *SQUIRM-ING*, HUH?

A A A...

SFX SQUIRT

I'M *SORRY*... LET ME, UH, WIPE THAT OFF!

YOU CAN TRY IT AGAIN I'LL BE *OKAY* THIS TIME, I THINK !

TISSUES, WHERE ARE *TISSUES...*

!

OH, MY GOD! HE'S *THAT* BIG?!

HE'S LIKE A *PORN STAR!*

FOUND 'EM! NOW *HOLD STILL* A SECOND...

THERE ...!

NOW, ONE MORE TIME.. LET'S TRY THIS *AGAIN...*

NNGH

WHAT DO I *DO...?* WHAT IF I *TEAR OPEN OR SOME-THING?!*

I *CAN'T* TELL HIM *NO...* NOT *NOW...*

AAGK

SFX. SHMPP

....

.....

AKANE...

GUN, *PLEASE...* YOU HAVE TO *STOP...*

AKAEN I *CAN'T...* STOP NOW...

N U H H H

OH ...!

IT FEELS.. **HOT!**

SFX. SHRXK

NOW YOU'RE...

HFF

MY WOMAN

HAHH

Y-YES!

DINNER IS *NOW READY*

SO ALL STAFF CAN PROCEED TO THE DINING ROOM, 'KAY?

QUITE A *SPREAD,* HUH?

ISAKA MADE IT ALL HERSELF, YOU KNOW?

OH, MRS. HINO? I ***WONT*** ASK TOU TO BE FRIENDS WITH US..

BUT I ***DO*** HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT THIS DINNER AS AN ***APOLOGY*** FOR ALL WE PUT YOU THROUGH!

UM.. WELL, I..

MAY I HAVE ***ATTEN-TION,*** PLEASE ?

I HAVE AN ***ANNOUNCEMENT*** TO MAKE! I, ***AKANE HINO,*** JUST BECAME GUN'S ***WOMEN!***

WHAT—?!

TO BE CONTINUED...!

豊和高等学校

WHAT? HIS "WOMAN" ...?
HNRRG!!
HOICHI... YOU SLEPT WITH AKANE?!
ER... UH...
HMMF.
DAMN RIGHT!
I MADE HER MINE, SIR!

YOU BASTARD!

TMP

WHOK

HOICHI "GUN" KANO Pilot of the ***Exaxxion*** robot, Hoichi defeated ***Dagunov One***, a ***Riofaldian*** robot. After returning to Exaxxion's fortified base, he and ***Akane Hino*** expressed their love for each other.

WHUDD

WHOKK

THWP

GOD-DAMN *PUNK...!*

WHAPP

=GUHH=

WHOKK

SO IS JUST *THAT* PART OF YOU ALL GROWN UP?

WHUDD

IS IT, NOW?

THUDD

GOOD PUNCH FOR A MAN HIS AGE

STOP IT, DADDY! DON'T--!

AKANE HINO – A bright, investigative teen reporter, Akane is deeply in love with ***Hoichi Kano***. Since the Riofaldian Invasion, her involvement with Hoichi has made her and her family targets of the aliens' military forces.

HAHH

HFF

GIVEN YOUR *SITUATION*, BOY..

HAHH

.. WEARING THAT *BLACK SUIT*, FIGHTING *GIANT ROBOTS*...

...HOW CAN YOU EVEN *HOPE* TO MAKE HER *HAPPY*...?

HOW THE HELL WILL YOU *PROTECT* HER?

I *SLEPT* WITH AKANE... TO MAKE HER THE *MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE WORLD!*

I'LL FIGHT LIKE *HELL* FOR HER, SIR! AND WE *WILL* SURVIVE!

SHLPP

OH, GUN ...!

SHMPP

....
....

HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the ***Exaxxion*** super-robot for humanity's defense

THEN *WIN FOR HER,* BOY. BY GOD, *WIN* FOR HER...

JUST... *TAKE CARE* OF MY LITTLE GIRL...

DADDY...

YES, *SIR!*

HONEY ...?

THAT'S *ALL?* YOU'RE JUST *LETTING* HIM--

MR. AND MRS. HINO? AKANE? I HAVE *WONDERFUL NEWS!*

WE'VE GOTTEN THROUGH TO *AOI!*

AOI...?! YOU'VE FOUND HER?

KCHAK

WHOOSH

AOI? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ...?

MOM? DAD? WHERE ARE YOU? IS AKANE WITH YOU?

SIS ...!

WE'RE *ALL* HERE, HONEY... AND WE'RE SO *GLAD* TO HEAR THAT YOU'RE *STILL ALIVE!*

*OF COURSE I'M ALIVE, MOM! I'M **FINE**, OKAY? HOICHI JUST GAVE ME THIS **PHONE** SO I COULD CALL YOU!*

HAHH? PARDON ...?

YOU SHOULD SEE *HOICHI*, MOMMA! HE'S STILL OUT *HEALING THE INJURED*, RIGHT NOW!

ALL TOO MANY PEOPLE *DIED* BEFORE HE COULD GET TO THEM.

BUT IF HE HADN'T SHOWN UP, WHO *KNOWS* HOW MANY MORE WOULD BE GONE?

WHEN HE PASSED BY HERE, HE SLIPPED ME THIS *PHONE*...

*...AND SOME NEW **EYEGLASSES!***

HE'S *SO POPULAR* YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT, MOM! THE *CROWDS* FOLLOW HIM EVERYWHERE. HE'S A *HERO!*

BUT, ENOUGH ABOUT THAT... WHERE *ARE YOU*, MOM?

WE'RE AT HOICHI'S GRAND-FATHER'S PLACE... IT'S LIKE AN ARMY BASE!

UH OH...!

YOU *HEARD* THE ANNOUNCEMENTS. *NO* CIVILIAN PHONE CALLS ALLOWED.

BESIDES, THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN TRYING... ALL *INTERNATIONAL LINES* ARE DOWN.

SORRY, MOM... I'LL CALL AGAIN LATER!

BEEP!

WAIT, AOI--

OH, I WAS JUST CALLING A FRIEND *ON BASE.* WE GOT, UM, *SEPARATED ...!*

ER...I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD SPEAK TO *MR. KANO?* HE *CURED* ME, YOU SEE, AND I'D LIKE TO--

HE CURED YOU BECAUSE WE *PERMITTED* IT, HUMAN!

TRUCE OR *NOT,* YOU'RE STILL UNDER *RIOFALDIAN CONTROL...* AND DON'T YOU *FORGET* IT!

BETTER NOT *TRY ANYTHING,* UNDER-STAND?

YES, SIR...

BLEH-H!

KCHNGG

VRMMM

SHE SAID *HOICHI* WAS BACK THERE... AT THE *ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE?*

PSHNK

THAT'S THE *"HERO PLAN"* IN ACTION, MRS. HINO. SAVING *LIVES* WHILE BUILDING *MORALE*...TWO BIRDS, ONE STONE!

ONE OF MY *DUPLICATE SELVES* IS IMPERSONATING HOICHI, MA'AM. SHE'S HELPING MAKE HIM INTO A *HERO.*

THIS WAR IS STILL *OURS TO LOSE* IF THE PEOPLE OF EARTH START *FIGHTING* EACH OTHER...

...SO, WE NEED A *HERO,* SOMEONE WITH THE CHARISMA TO BRING US ALL *TOGETHER!*

MASTER HOSUKE ONLY FIGHTS WARS HE CAN ***WIN,*** YOU SEE.

HE KNEW THAT EXAXXION WOULD ***DEFEAT*** RIOFALD'S OCCUPATION FORCES, AND HE ***PLANNED AHEAD*** FOR THE PEACE.

GENERAL SHES'KA'S BEEN ELIMINATED...IF WE CAN OFFER A ***NEW FIGURE*** IN HIS PLACE, AN ***ICON*** WHO HELPS BOTH FRIENDS AND FOES ALIKE, OUR PROJECTIONS INDICATE THAT WE CAN ***UNIFY*** A MAJORITY OF THE HUMAN POPULATION. THAT'S THE ***"HERO PLAN."***

THIS SHOULD HELP ***MARGINALIZE*** RIOFALDIAN EXTREMISTS, TOO...

ONCE ISAKA'S COPY IS DONE ***SAVING LIVES,*** SHE'LL ZIP YOUR DAUGHTER ***STRAIGHT BACK*** HERE.

BLPP BLPP BLPP

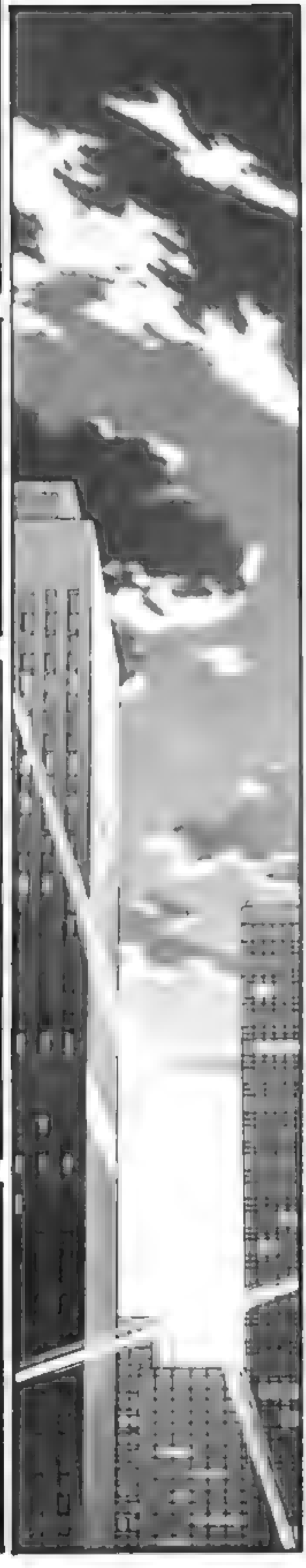
WILL ***THAT*** UNRUFFLE YOUR FEATHERS A BIT, MR. AND MRS. HINO?

.....
...

YOU PEOPLE.. I ***GIVE UP.***

ISAKA MINAGATA Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding ***Haichi Kano.*** She is using a nanotech disguise to appear as ***Haichi*** while she heals the injured at the ***Orbital Elevator Base.***

JUST .. *HELP HER,* PLEASE...



WHAT'S *THAT,* LADDIE?

YOU WANT TO *GO BACK* TO YOUR OLD SCHOOL?

YEAH I MEAN, *DISGUISED,* OF COURSE

DON'T EVEN *TRY* TO STOP ME, OKAY?

WELL, JUST MAKE *DAMN SURE* THAT ISAKA'S GOT YOUR BACK, BOY

HOWA MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL

都立豊和高等学校

-08:20-

1-E

GOOD MORNING, CLASS.

I'M SO *VERY HAPPY* TO BE ABLE TO *STUDY* WITH YOU ALL AGAIN!

AND TODAY, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A *BRAND-NEW* FRIEND!

MR. KABUTO IS A TRANSFER STUDENT FROM SHINJUKU HIGH...

MY OLD SCHOOL GOT *FLATTENED*... SO THEY SENT ME *HERE*.

NAME'S *DAN KABUTO*.

GOOD TO *MEET* YA.

BINGG BONGG
12:00
ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES REMAIN PROHIBITED DURING THE TRUCE PERIOD
12:00
YO, NEWBIE! WANNA GET SOME CHOW?
UH, SURE, I GUESS...
I'M OGURA... TAKASHI OGURA. WELCOME TO HOWA HIGH, HUH?
I'M AKIO HITACHI, DUDE! DIDN'T BRING A LUNCH, DIDJA?
NAH... FIGURED I'D TRY THE CAFE-TERIA.
EWW
SHIN-JUKU HIGH, HUH?
I HEARD THAT THE MUZZLE BLAST FROM EXAXXION'S CANNON SMASHED IT FLAT...YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!
THEY UH, EVACU-ATED US, JUST IN TIME...

RESTAURANT
HOWA
ANNOUNCEMENT:
CHANGE OF MENU
HEY! OVER HERE OVER HERE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
BEEP!
FOOD COUPONS
KLAK
NOW ON SALE
CHOCO
HERE YOU GO...CURRY NOODLES, ONE SMALL RICE, *DOUBLE* GRAVY.
HUH? HEY, KABUTO, HAVE YOU EATEN HERE *BEFORE?*
HAHH?
'CAUSE WORKING THE *FREE EXTRA GRAVY* ANGLE IS THE *CAFETERIA SECRET* OF HOWA HIGH, Y'KNOW...
UH, *NO*... JUST HEARD THE KID IN *FRONT* OF ME SAY HE WANTED DOUBLE GRAVY.
HEY, YOU KNOW WHICH *SPICE* T'GO FOR, TOO... *THAT* ONE MAKES THIS SLOP ALMOST EDIBLE!

SO *TELL ME,* KABUTO... WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

HUH?

KNOCK

OH ...!

AH ...!

DECIDED TO *PICNIC* ON THE ROOF, TOO?

CAN *TEACHER* JOIN YOU?

GEE... *UH...*

SORRY, BUT *NO,* THANK YOU.

WE'D JUST DECIDED TO GO *SOMEWHERE ELSE.*

SKNCH

LET'S TRY THE *EAST SIDE.*

UM... *OKAY ...!*

TMD

KEEP OUT

OH...

AH... *THAT* SIDE OF THE BUILD-ING...

...IT'S STILL *OFF-LIMITS!*

I'M *SORRY...* I'LL GO BACK DOWN-STAIRS...

IT'S *OFF-LIMITS* BECAUSE YOU RIOFALDIANS RIPPED A *HOLE* IN OUR SCHOOL!

AND FOURTEEN STUDENTS *DIED,* REMEMBER?

HAVE FUN ON THE ROOF, *"TEACHER" ...!*

SLAMM

UM, GEE... DIDN'T *MISS KIN'BA* GET HURT WHEN THE SCHOOL WAS ATTACKED, TOO...?

IF YOU LOVE *'FALDIES* SO MUCH, GO *EAT* WITH HER!

"TEACHER"
...?
MAYBE I
SHOULD
JUST
QUIT...

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT--!
HAHH ...?!
SHPP
EEK ...!
OH ...!
THNK
AH ...!
TMPD
TMPD
TMPD
GOT YOU--!
THAPP
OUCH.
KLONKK

OWW ...!

HEY, TEACH! YOU OKAY?

OH... MURATA ...?

YOU WERE THERE ALL ALONG?

YEAH, GUESS SO.

THESE DAYS, WITH EVERYONE SO *DOWN* ON YOU GUYS, THE CLASSROOM'S LIKE A DAMN *TINDERBOX!*

FIGURED I COULD GET AWAY FROM THAT CRAP *FOR LUNCH,* AT LEAST.

SAME FOR *YOU,* TOO, TEACH?

WELL, *YES*, ACTUALLY ...!

SO... YOU WANNA HAVE LUNCH *TOGETHER*, THEN?

SO, THEN...

...ON *ONE* SIDE THERE'S THIS *"EXAXXION PARTY"*...

...AND THEN THERE ARE THE *"FALDIE LAPDOGS"* ...?

YOU *GOT* IT, DUDE! THE EXAXXION PARTY SAYS, *"LET'S KICK THOSE ALIEN BUTCHERS' SORRY ASSES, AND **TAKE BACK** THE EARTH!"*

AND THE *"LAP-DOGS"* ...?

THEY'RE A BUNCH OF *SPINELESS WIMPS!* THEY'RE ALL, LIKE, *"OH, WAR IS SOOOO AWFUL!"*

HEY, *LOOK!* IT'S THAT *FOOTAGE* AGAIN!

THIS, I GOTTA SEE.

COME CHECK IT OUT, KABUTO!

UH... RIGHT...

THIS IS FOOTAGE OF RIOFALDIAN SUPPRESSION OF YESTERDAY'S RIOTS.

WHEN REFUGEES FROM THE SHINJUKU DISTRICT HELD AN IMPROMPTU PROTEST...

...RIOFALD POLICE SLAUGHTERED THEM IN THE NAME OF "CROWD CONTROL," CUTTING DOWN HELPLESS CITIZENS AS THEY TRIED TO FLEE.

GIVEN THE INVOLVEMENT OF PROGRAMMED RIOFALDIAN ROBOTS IN THIS ATROCITY...

NOODLE CORNER

LUNCH

LUNCH SPECIAL "A"

...IT'S QUITE CLEAR THAT THE "SHOOT TO KILL" ORDERS MUST HAVE COME FROM THE VERY HIGHEST RIOFALDIAN AUTHORITIES, DESPITE THE OFFICIAL CEASEFIRE.

ONE MUST ASK WHY MAIN-STREAM MEDIA OUTLETS AREN'T COVERING THIS CRITICAL STORY--

BLIP

ATTENTION, ALL STUDENTS!

!!

!!

YOU MUST NOT BE DECEIVED BY MISINFOR-MATION!

THESE IMAGES MAY SEEM REAL, BUT THEY WERE MANUFAC-TURED BY ANARCHIST PIRATE BROAD-CASTERS.

PING

ANTI-GOVERNMENT INSURGENTS HAVE JUST TRANSMITTED A PIRATE TELEVISION BROADCAST.

THIS FALSE IMAGERY WAS COMPUTER-GENERATED TO MANIPULATE PUBLIC OPINION. THE OFFENDING CHANNEL HAS NOW BEEN SHUT DOWN.

GOOD LUCK, PAL...LIKE THERE AREN'T A ZILLION OTHER *NET TV* CHANNELS OUT THERE!

WHO KNOWS *WHERE* THAT FOOTAGE'LL RUN NEXT?

KCHIK

SHKK

HEY, IT'S *STILL RUNNING* ON ANOTHER CHANNEL! LET'S WATCH IT IN THE *CLUB ROOM*, HUH?

LOOKING, LOOKING... *FOUND IT!*

COME ON, KABUTO!

UH... *SURE.*

MAN, OUR *NET BUDDIES* CAN TRACK DOWN *ANYTHING!*

YEAH, *EVERYONE'S* WITH THE *"EXAXXION PARTY"* NOW.

NO *KIDDING ...?*

A *TV DRAMA ...?*

THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE SINGING... THE *THEME SONG* FROM A RIOFALDIAN TV SHOW?

YES. IT'S *REALLY OLD,* NOW, THOUGH!

SO... YOU *HEARD ME* SINGING?

YEAH... YOU, UH, SING *REALLY* WELL!

HA, HA... THANK YOU!

THE SHOW WAS THIS SILLY *HIGH-SCHOOL DRAMA*...THE HEROINE WAS A *TEACHER,* AND, WELL.. I *REALLY* WANTED TO BE LIKE HER.

VM M M

VM M M

VM M M

WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO BE A TEACHER OF ALIENS... UM, OF *HUMANS*... IT WAS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE...

...IT *REALLY* WAS...!

BUT *NOW*...

...IT'S OVER. NOW, EVERYONE HATES ME--
HEY! I DON'T HATE YOU.
REALLY?
SO, UH... YOU SHOULDN'T QUIT, OKAY?
...THANK YOU.

MEDIA ROOM
WELCOME TO THE MEDIA CLUB!
THIS DOOR IS AUTOLOCKED. PLEASE KNOCK BEFORE
Y'DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT OFF, KABUTO... BUT TAKE A LOOK-SEE, AND THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY?
NOKK NOKK
YOU GOTTA JOIN THE CLUB, DUDE!
DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD JERKS LIKE THIS IN THE MEDIA CLUB...
HAHH ...?
KCHAK
HOWDY!
AH ...!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHUHH--?
I'M SAKO KUMAKITA! I JUST SIGNED UP FOR THE CLUB!

SHE'S AN *EXCHANGE STUDENT,* AND SHE *REALLY* WANTED TO JOIN UP!

SO *VERY* PLEASED TO MEETCHA! ♥

UH, *SURE*... SAME H- *HERE*...!

HEY, *MARU!!* WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL MY *CELLPHONE* AND LET ME *KNOW* THAT SHE SIGNED UP?

OH, *RIGHT!* YOU WERE MR. *ABSENTEE CLUB MEMBER* UNTIL JUST LAST WEEK, OGURA!

AH ..NO WONDER I HADN'T HEARD OF THESE GUYS BEFORE...

NICE TO MEETCHA!

UH...*MY PLEASURE!* I'M NOT A CLUB MEMBER, THOUGH. *DAN KABUTO,* FROM CLASS 1-E.

OH, IS THAT *SO?* I'M FROM *CLASS 1-D,* MYSELF! ♥

ISAKA... YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE JOINING THE MEDIA CLUB!

AKANE ASKED ME TO SIGN UP!

WHY AREN'T YOU IN MY CLASS, HUH? I WAS SWEATING BULLETS TODAY!

I THOUGHT WE COULD ACQUIRE MORE DATA FROM TWO DIFFERENT CLASSES.

HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN COMPACT IN THIS FORM! WHERE'S THE REST OF YOUR, UH, MASS...?

OH, I'VE HIDDEN THE REST OF MY NANO-MATERIAL AROUND THE SCHOOL...

OUTTA THE WAY, NEWBIE!

HI, BABE... OGURA'S THE NAME. ASK ME ANYTHING Y'NEED TO KNOW!

OOH... THANK YOU! ❤

A NEW DEVELOPMENT REGARDING *DAGUNOV ONE'S* COCKPIT?

YES, SIR.

DAGUNOV'S *HEAD UNIT* SURVIVED THE BLAST, BUT...

...THE *CONTROL CAPSULE* IS MISSING, IT SEEMS.

WHAT THE *DEVIL* ...?

IF THE CAPSULE *EJECTS* SAFELY, DOESN'T IT AUTOMATICALLY TRANSMIT A *DISTRESS SIGNAL?*

WE'VE RECEIVED *NO* SUCH TRANSMISSIONS, SIR...YET ALL SIGNS INDICATE THAT IT *DID* LAUNCH CORRECTLY.

STILL...THE CAPSULE'S *LIFE SUPPORT* SYSTEMS AREN'T LIKELY TO BE MORE DURABLE THAN THE *EMERGENCY TRANSPONDER*...

WE'VE *EXPANDED* THE SEARCH AREA, SIR. WE'RE DEPLOYING UNITS TO SWEEP THE NEARBY *SEA FLOOR* RIGHT NOW.

MAKE IT YOUR *TOP PRIORITY!*

WE PLAYED UP HIS *"VALIANT DEATH"* FOR ALL IT WAS WORTH IN OUR *PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS,* AND THE RESULTING SYMPATHY HAS *BOOSTED* RIOFALDIAN MORALE!

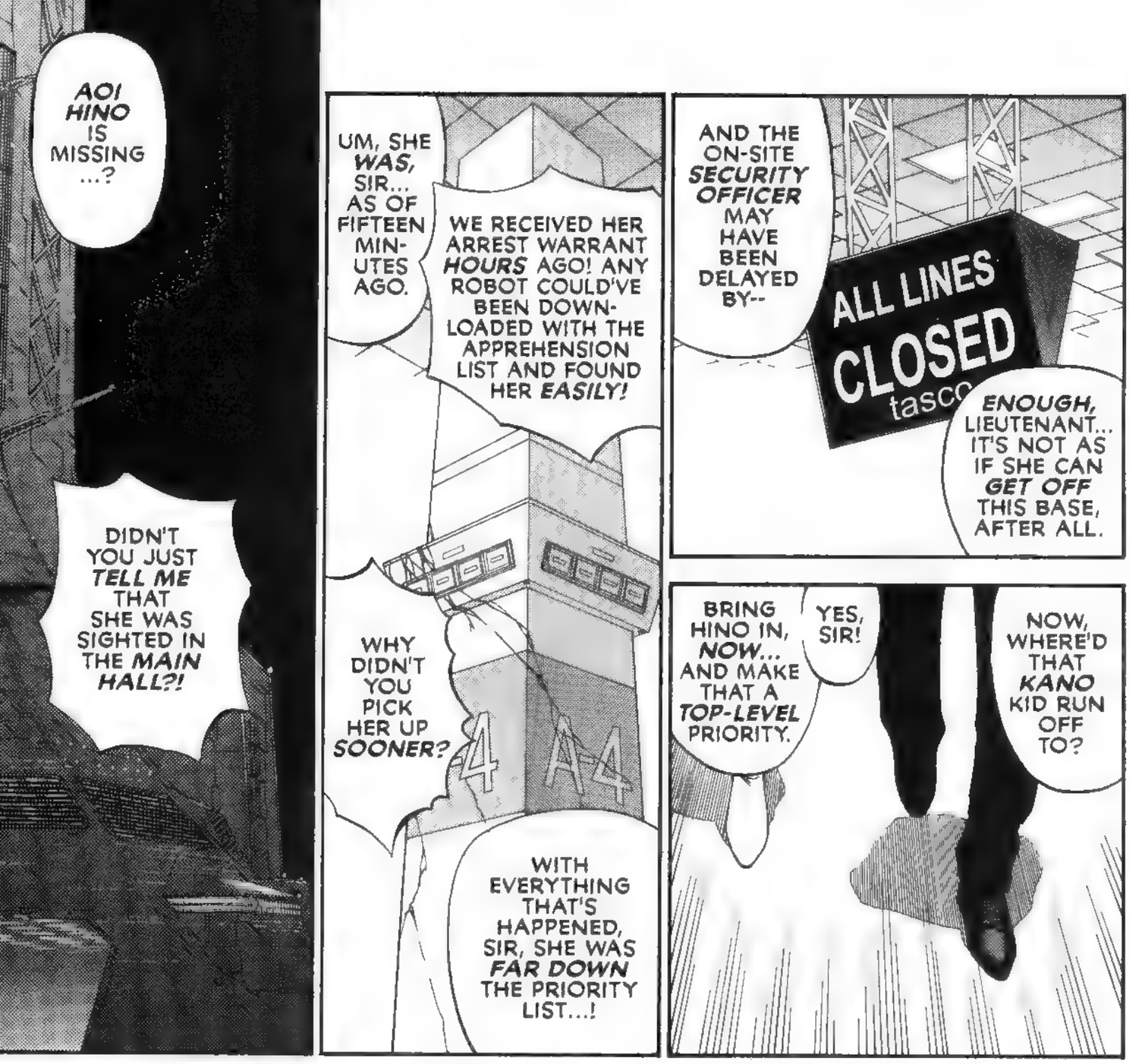
GENERAL SHES'KA IS DEAD... AND HE NEEDS TO *STAY DEAD!*

TO BE CONTINUED...!

CHARACTER PROFILE:
AOI HINO

AGE: 21
BIRTHDAY: DECEMBER 8
HEIGHT: 5'4"
CHEST (measured around breasts): 32"
CHEST (measured under breasts): 27"
WAIST 22"
HIPS: 31"
WEIGHT: 99 lbs

Akane's older sister, Aoi Hino is a broadcaster with a local Tokyo television station, recently caught up in events while on assignment at the orbital elevator anchorage. Unlike her younger sister, she possesses a rather more normal "bust to waist" ratio. Aoi wears eyeglasses instead of contact lenses, in case she finds herself working under, say, windy or dusty conditions which might foul the latter. Akane, until recently, likewise chose eyeglasses over contacts in emulation of her sister. A trained on-camera reporter, Akane only reverts to her native Osaka dialect when she's talking with her family.


AOI HINO IS MISSING ...?
DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME THAT SHE WAS SIGHTED IN THE MAIN HALL?!
UM, SHE WAS, SIR... AS OF FIFTEEN MIN-UTES AGO.
WE RECEIVED HER ARREST WARRANT HOURS AGO! ANY ROBOT COULD'VE BEEN DOWN-LOADED WITH THE APPREHENSION LIST AND FOUND HER EASILY!
WHY DIDN'T YOU PICK HER UP SOONER?
WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, SIR, SHE WAS FAR DOWN THE PRIORITY LIST...!
AND THE ON-SITE SECURITY OFFICER MAY HAVE BEEN DELAYED BY--
ALL LINES CLOSED
ENOUGH, LIEUTENANT... IT'S NOT AS IF SHE CAN GET OFF THIS BASE, AFTER ALL.
BRING HINO IN, NOW... AND MAKE THAT A TOP-LEVEL PRIORITY.
YES, SIR!
NOW, WHERE'D THAT KANO KID RUN OFF TO?
WELL, LIEUTEN-ANT?
....
....
UM... WE'VE LOST HIM, SIR.
WHAT ?!
PSHNKK

HOICHI "GUN" KANO Pilot of the **Exaxxion** robot, Hoichi fights to free humanity from invading **Riofaldian** forces.

HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the **Exaxxion** super-robot for humanity's defense.

HE COULDN'T *POSSIBLY* BE ANY MORE CONSPICUOUS! ISN'T THE *SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM* LOCKED ON TO HIM?

WELL, SIR, TEN MINUTES AGO... *ALL* OF OUR CAMERAS AND ROBOTS TASKED TO OBSERVE HIM SOMEHOW, AH, *LOST TRACK* OF KANO...

THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!* THE SYSTEM HAS 400% *REDUNDANCY COVERAGE* ON HIGH-PRIORITY TARGETS!

THIS COULD BE *HACKING,* SIR...THEY'VE SUBVERTED OUR MILITARY DATALINES *BEFORE...*

WELL, DISPATCH *EVERY* AVAILABLE SECURITY ASSET AND *FIND HIM!* SCOOP UP *EVERY EYEWITNESS* IF YOU HAVE TO!

N-NO, SIR! I *WASN'T* IN THE CROWD WHEN--

YOU WERE SPOTTED NEAR KANO TWENTY MINUTES AGO, ON CAMERA!

UH...WELL, HE JUST SORTA VANISHED... I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE WENT!

MAYBE YOU GUYS GRABBED HIM?

STOP IT, WILL YOU?

STEP UP TO THIS ROBOT FOR AN INSTANT POLY-GRAPH TEST!

WHAT'S THE STATUS OF OUR *OCEAN ENTRY BASE'S* IMPLEMENTATION OF *COMMAND A1*, LIEUTENANT?

NO RESPONSE AS OF YET, SIR.

NO RESPONSE? THIS IS *RIDICULOUS!*

SET UP A DIRECT AND SECURE *ANALOG LINK* TO THE BASE! OUR *COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK* MIGHT'VE BEEN SUBVERTED AS WELL!

YES, SIR.

GENERAL SHES'KA MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE...

...BUT WE'VE PROPAGANDIZED THE TROOPS AND THE PUBLIC WITH ACCOUNTS OF HIS HEROIC DEATH. IF WE RETRACT THE STORY, THE PR BLOWBACK COULD BE DISASTROUS!

AND WHAT WILL THE COUNCIL DO IF WE ACTUALLY FIND HIM...?

WE'RE ON-LINE WITH THE *OCEAN ENTRY BASE,* SIR.

WE'VE IMPLEMENTED COMMAND A1 WITH ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES, SIR...

...BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T LOCATED DAGUNOV'S COCKPIT MODULE.

WELL, THEN, EXPAND THE SEARCH ZONE...AND BOOST YOUR SCANNER RESOLUTION.

O.E.B B7 GATE

AND FROM NOW ON, USE THIS DIRECT, ANALOG LINE TO UPDATE ME PERSONALLY.

REPORT IN EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES, REGARD-LESS.

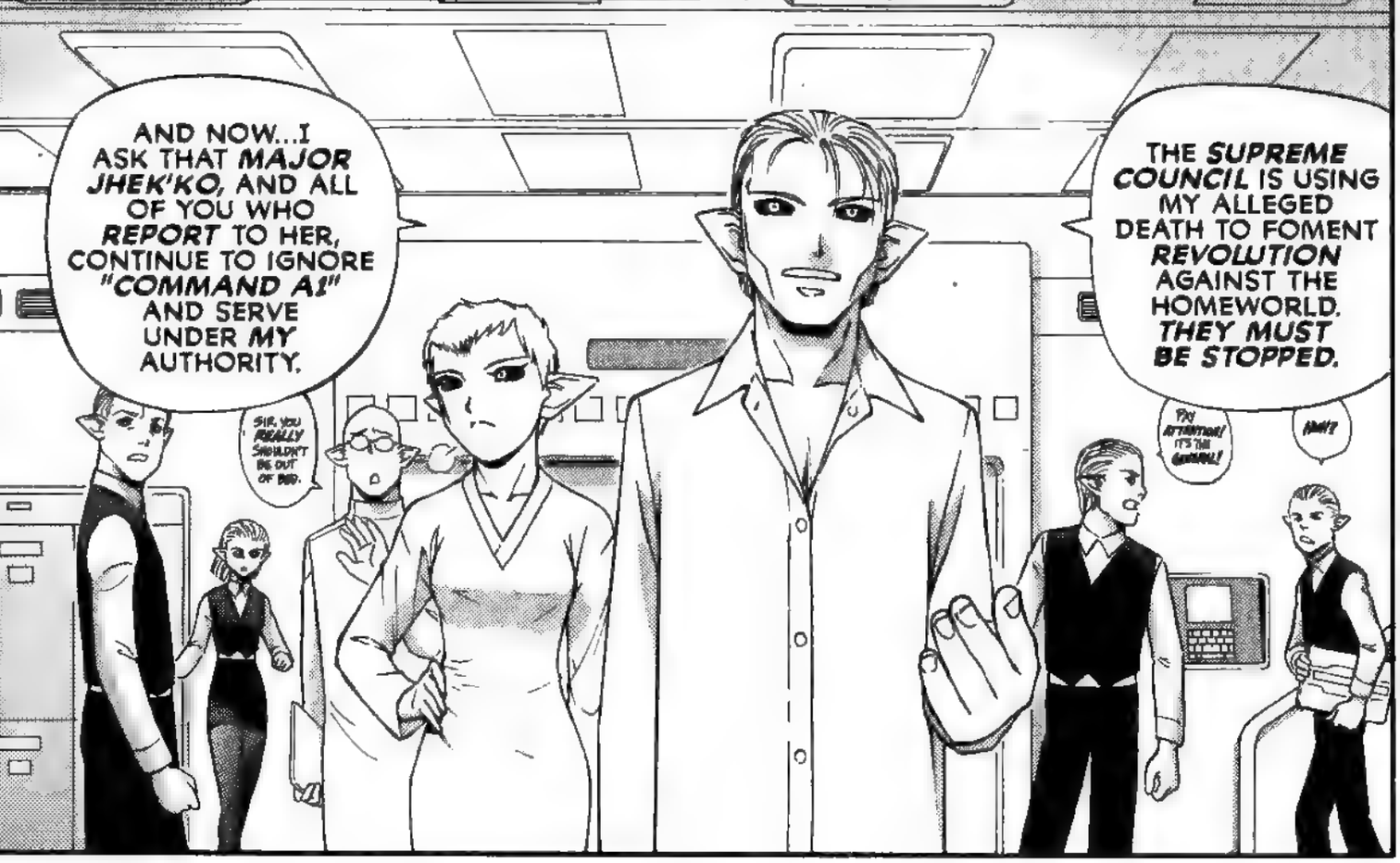
YES, SIR.

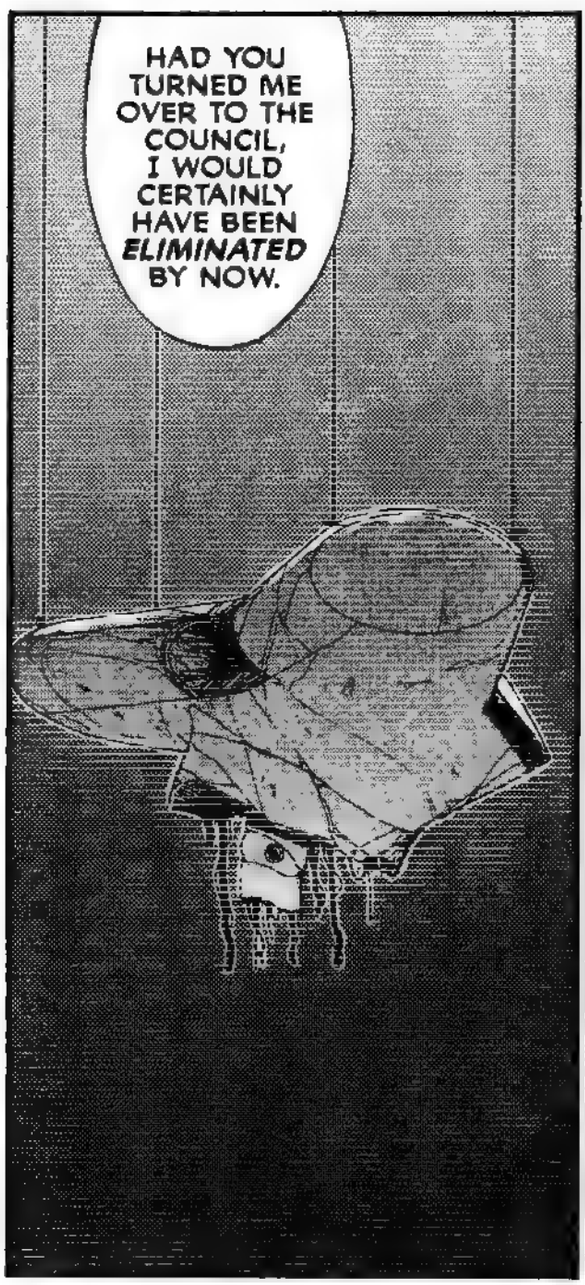
NICELY DONE, MAJOR JHEK'KO.

SIR! SHOULD YOU BE ON YOUR FEET?

BEHOLD THE MAGIC OF MEDICAL NANO-MACHINES, MAJOR.

BESIDES, MY INJURIES WEREN'T LIFE-THREATENING IN THE FIRST PLACE.


AND NOW...I ASK THAT *MAJOR JHEK'KO*, AND ALL OF YOU WHO *REPORT* TO HER, CONTINUE TO IGNORE *"COMMAND AI"* AND SERVE UNDER *MY* AUTHORITY.
SIR, YOU *REALLY* SHOULDN'T BE OUT OF BED.
THE *SUPREME COUNCIL* IS USING MY ALLEGED DEATH TO FOMENT *REVOLUTION* AGAINST THE HOMEWORLD. *THEY MUST BE STOPPED.*
ATTENTION! IT'S THE GENERAL!
AT EASE!


HAD YOU TURNED ME OVER TO THE COUNCIL, I WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN *ELIMINATED* BY NOW.

THEY INTEND TO SEIZE EXAXXION'S *RA'UN META'AR* UNIT, AND USE IT TO *ANNIHILATE* THE APPROACHING FLEET DISPATCHED FROM THE *HOMEWORLD.*
ALL RIOFALDIANS ON PLANET EARTH WILL BE DRAGGED INTO *WAR* AGAINST OUR OWN HOMEWORLD... WE *MUST* PREVENT THIS!

WILL YOU SERVE UNDER *MY* COM-MAND?

GLADLY, GENERAL SHES'KA!

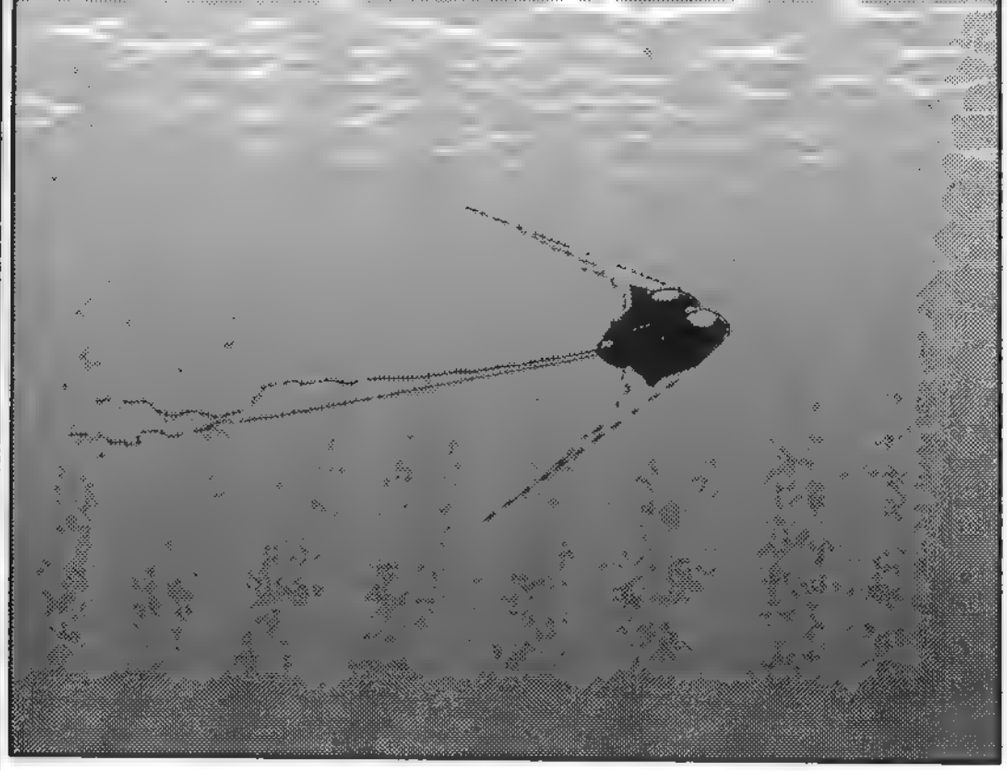
THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS! NOW, I MUST ISSUE MY *FIRST* ORDER.

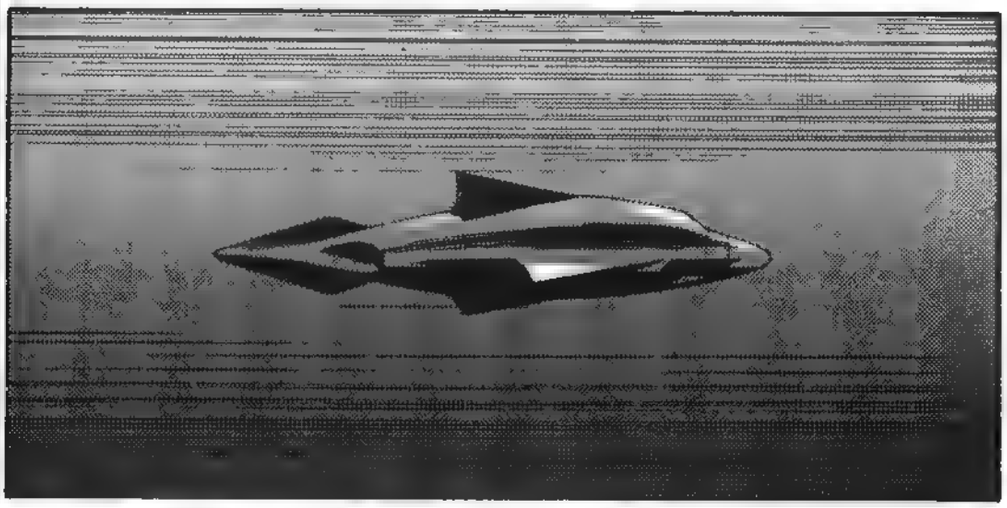
RIG THE *COCKPIT MODULE* TO MAKE IT APPEAR AS IF COLONEL HULAN'KI AND I *PERISHED.*

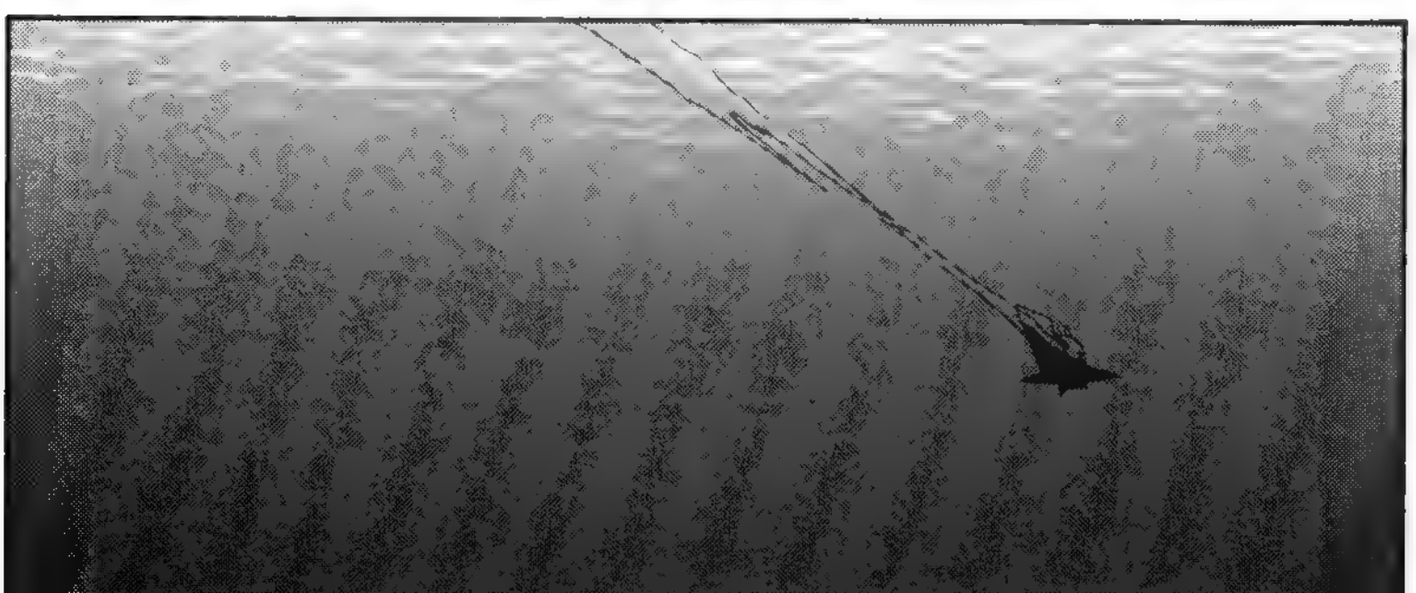
ACQUIRE TWO *CORPSES* AND BURN THEM BEYOND RECOGNITION. WE'LL BLUR THE RESULTS OF *DNA TESTS* ON THE BODIES VIA HACKING AND DATA MANIPULA-TION.

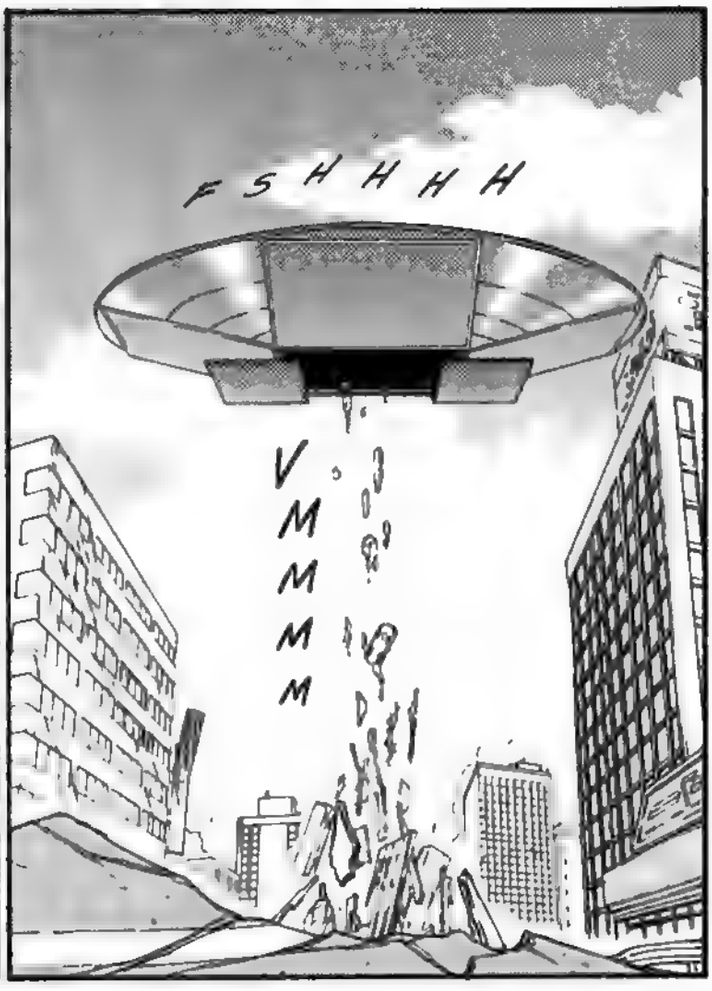
LET'S GIVE THE COUNCIL THE *DEAD GENERAL* THEY REQUIRE!

IN *ALL* OTHER RESPECTS, CARRY ON BUSINESS AS USUAL. THEY *CANNOT* NOTICE ANYTHING AWRY.









WE'RE REPORTING FROM SHINJUKU AIRSPACE, ON THE VERY EDGE OF THE NO-FLY ZONE.

WHUPP WHUPP WHUPP WHUPP WHUPP

WHILE FULLY FIFTEEN KILOMETERS AWAY FROM EXAXXION'S CANNON, SHINJUKU WAS STILL DEVASTATED BY ITS MUZZLE BLAST.

MORE THAN A DOZEN **CFOS** DISPATCHED BY THE RIOFALDIAN GOVERNMENT ARE USING THEIR POWERFUL **GRAVITY CRANES** TO SCOOP AWAY RUBBLE.

RESCUE CREWS ARE WORKING **FEVERISHLY** TO CLEAR THE WRECKAGE AND UNEARTH SURVIVORS.

JA2307

TV

IN CONTRAST, THE **HUMAN** RESCUE TEAMS ARE CLEARLY EXPERIENCING **FAR LESS** SUCCESS IN THEIR RECOVERY WORK, DESPITE ALL THEIR MANPOWER AND GEAR. WITHOUT ACCESS TO GRAVITATIONAL CONTROL, THEIR EFFORTS SEEM **FEEBLE** IN COMPARISON.

ADAMO

CUT!

HAHH ...?

WE ***CAN'T*** BROADCAST ANY ***HUMAN-ORIENTED*** REPORTS OR COMMENTARIES, UNDER-STAND?

BUT...***WHY?*** WE'RE ***NOT*** TRANSMITTING FROM THE NO-FLY ZONE! WE'RE COMMERCIAL BROADCASTERS, NOT ***GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDISTS,*** AREN'T WE?

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ***PRAISING*** THE MONKEYS, YOU KNOW!

JA2307 06

I ***KNOW*** THAT! BUT WE'VE RECEIVED ***ORDERS*** FROM THE ***VERY TOP,*** ALL RIGHT?

YOU MEAN... THIS IS ***GOVERN-MENT POLICY?***

THAT'S *RIGHT.* THEY'VE SENT IN *OFFICIAL CENSORS...*

WE CAN'T BROADCAST *ANYTHING* ABOUT THE HUMANS, WHETHER POSITIVE *OR* NEGATIVE.

BUT, WHY *NOW...?* WE'RE BROAD-CASTING *LIVE!*

NOT *ANYMORE* WE AREN'T, MY DEAR. THIS FEED'S BEING RUN THROUGH THE *NEWSROOM* FIRST...SO OUR FOOTAGE WILL AIR *"PSEUDO-LIVE,"* WITH A BUILT-IN, FIVE-MINUTE LAG.

ALL *UNSUPERVISED* BROADCASTING AND RECORDING IS NOW *BANNED*...THEY'VE STATIONED THEIR *THUGS* IN OUR NEWS-ROOM TO MAKE SURE.

BUT, *SIR*... WHAT ABOUT THAT *JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY* YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT...?

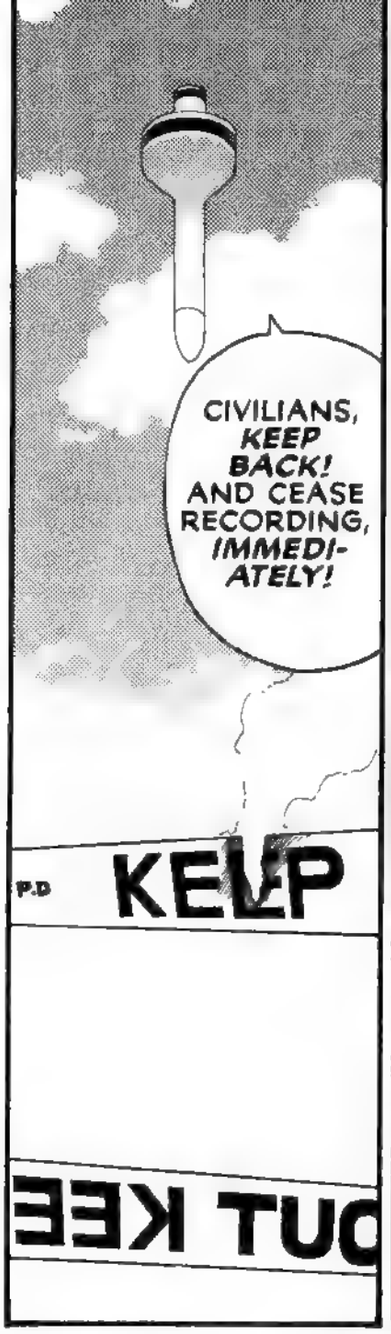
NOW, FOR THE *REAL* STORY...I'VE LEFT OUR BACKUP *SUB-CAMERA* RUNNING, *DISCONNECTED* FROM THE TRANSMITTER FEED!

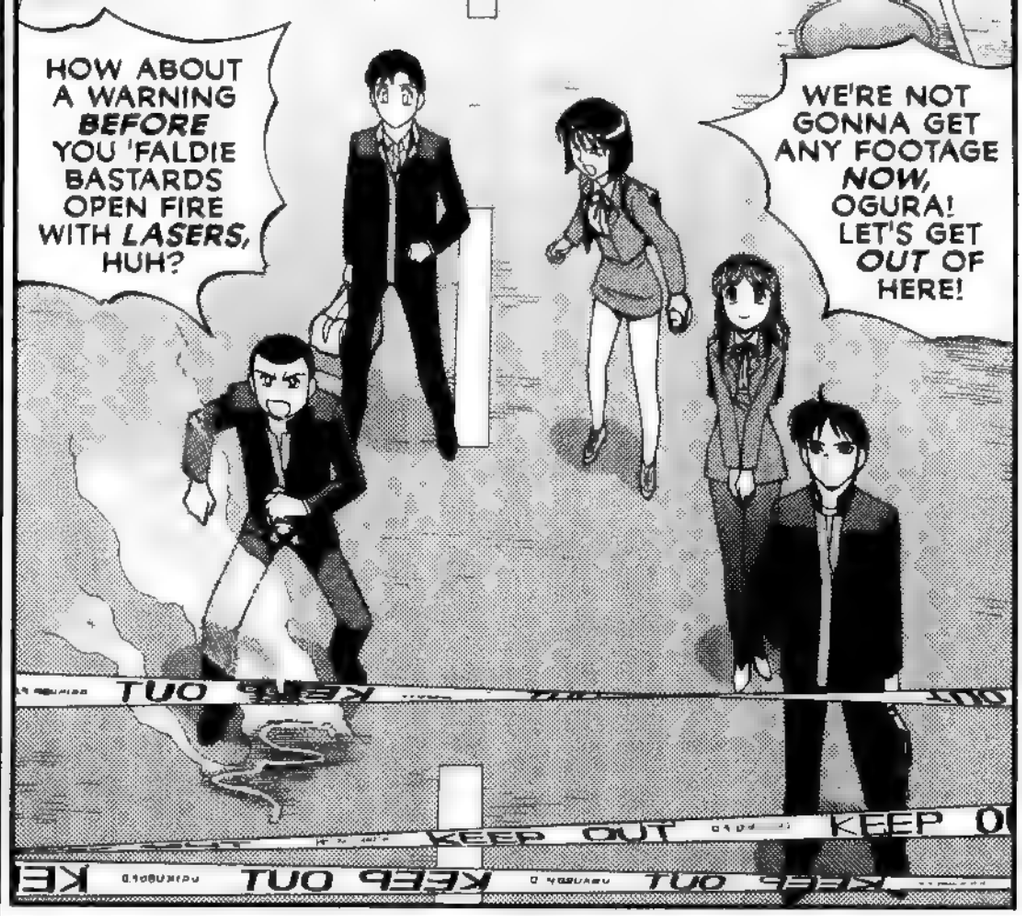
WE'LL RECORD *EVERYTHING,* AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, WE'LL HAVE SOME *SERIOUS* JOURNALISM READY...

OH, *SIR...*

SO *FOR NOW,* JUST GIVE 'EM THEIR *OFFICIAL PAP,* OKAY?

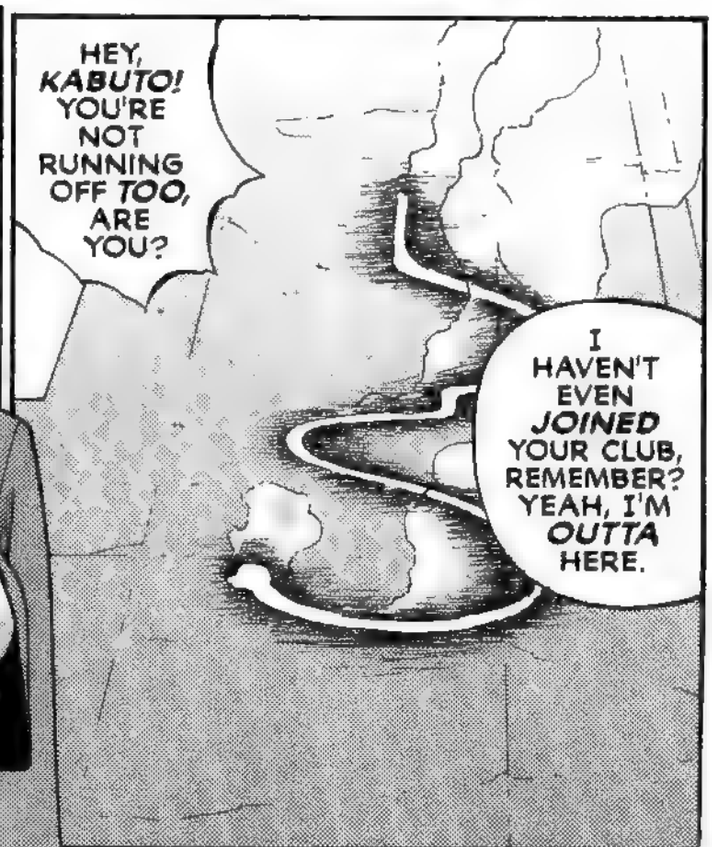
Y-YES, SIR!


CIVILIANS, KEEP BACK! AND CEASE RECORDING, IMMEDI-ATELY!
P.D KELP
OUT KEE


HOW ABOUT A WARNING BEFORE YOU 'FALDIE BASTARDS OPEN FIRE WITH LASERS, HUH?
WE'RE NOT GONNA GET ANY FOOTAGE NOW, OGURA! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT

WHAT, ARE YOU KIDDING? WE CAME HERE TO FILM HUMAN RESCUE WORKERS, DIDN'T WE?
IF WE DON'T COVER THEM, WHO WILL?!

WELL, WE'RE LEAVING! RIGHT, SAKO?
UH-HUH!


HEY, KABUTO! YOU'RE NOT RUNNING OFF TOO, ARE YOU?
I HAVEN'T EVEN JOINED YOUR CLUB, REMEMBER? YEAH, I'M OUTTA HERE.

HITACHI! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE--

OF COURSE I'M LEAVING! THEY'RE GONNA FRY US!

....
....

KAND IS. RIOFALD: PICK YOUR TYRANT

← MY HEART LEAPS THE 500 METERS TO YOUR GRAVE!

WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE

KANO'S THE REAL INVADER

WANTED

LOVE WILL SAVE THE WORLD

GO TO HELL, KANO!

WANTED

NATIONWIDE MANHUNT
HOICHI KANO

OSIKUBO PD

LET'S GO, KABUTO!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! THE MASORITY FRIGGIN' RULES OKAY?

4096
CANNON
12/21
AOI, HONEY!
SIS!
THANK GOD...
OH, SIS...!
AOI...

AXXION
MOM!
DAD!
AKANE!
YOU'RE
ALL
OKAY?

WELL, *THAT* SETTLES THE DAMN *HINO FAMILY* MESS, I HOPE...
MISS *TANEGA-SHIMA*... WHAT'S THE STATUS ON THE *EXAXXION REBUILD?*
IMPAIRED *MECHANICAL FUNCTIONS* ARE SIXTY-EIGHT PERCENT RESTORED, WITH ONLY FIFTY PERCENT OF *ALLOTTED WORKTIME* ELAPSED. WE'RE *WELL* ON SCHEDULE, SIR.
EXCELLENT!

CANNON GOD EXAXXION

STAGE 5.8

AGE: 42 HEIGHT: 5' 2"

SPEAKS IN OSAKA DIALECT. WIFE OF TAKASHI HINO, MOTHER OF AKANE HINO AND AOI HINO.

SCAN HOLOGRAPHIC SEAL BELOW TO DOWNLOAD SIGHTING REPORT TOOL.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

ISAKA MINAGATA

AGE: 16 HEIGHT: 5' 5"

LARGE-BREASTED, RESEMBLES A FASHION MODEL. WAIST-LENGTH BLACK HAIR. SPEAKS STANDARD JAPANESE. FRESHMAN, HOWA METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL.

SCAN HOLOGRAPHIC SEAL BELOW TO DOWNLOAD SIGHTING REPORT TOOL.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

REI

AGE: 35 HEIG

LARGE-BREAS RESEMBLES A MODEL. SPEAK STANDARD JA MOTHER OF HOICHI KANO. WIDOW.

TOKYO

GLOBAL MANHUNT

WANTED

Let's kill all the Faldie scum, shall we? ♡

REIKO KANO

AGE: 35 HEIGHT: 5' 8"

LARGE-BREASTED, RESEMBLES A FASHION MODEL. SPEAKS STANDARD JAPANESE. MOTHER OF HOICHI KANO. WIDOW. ← MILF

SCAN HOLOGRAPHIC SEAL BELOW TO DOWNLOAD SIGHTING REPORT TOOL.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

GLOBAL MANHUNT

WANTED

HI, I'M A TERRORIST!

OUR HERO!!!

MEOWWW

HOICHI KANO

AGE: 16 HEIGHT: 5' 5"

MEDIUM HEIGHT AND BUILD. SPEAKS STANDARD JAPANESE. FRESHMAN, HOWA METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL.

SCAN HOLOGRAPHIC SEAL BELOW TO DOWNLOAD SIGHTING REPORT TOOL.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

GLOBAL MANHUNT

WANTED

MAD

HOSUKE KANO

AGE: 61 HEIGHT: 6' 6"

SOLIDLY BUILT. OLD-FASHIONED SPEECH PATTERNS AND EXCLAMATIONS. GRANDFATHER OF HOICHI KANO.

SCAN HOLOGRAP SEAL BELOW TO DOWNL SIGHTING REPORT TO

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

DIE!

GLOBAL MANHUNT

WANTED

TAKASHI HINO

AGE: 45 HEIGHT: 5' 7"

SOLIDLY BUILT. SPEAKS STANDARD JAPANESE. HUSBAND OF MIDORI HINO, FATHER OF AKANE HINO AND AOI HINO.

SCAN HOLOGRAPHIC SEAL BELOW TO DOWNLOAD SIGHTING REPORT TOOL.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

GLOBAL MANHUNT

WANTED

So much for my pride, dark energy...

WAR ISN'T VERY NICE YOU KNOW!

AKANE HINO

AGE: 15 HEIGHT: 4' 10"

SMALL AND SLIGHTLY BUILT. NEARSIGHTED, WEARS EYEGLASSES. SPEAKS OSAKA DIALECT. DAUGHTER OF TAKASHI AND MIDORI HINO. FRESHMAN HOWA METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL.

SCAN HOLOGRAPHIC SEAL BELOW TO DOWNLOAD SIGHTING REPORT TOOL.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

GLOBAL MANHUNT

WANTED

nyum

ISAKA MINAGATA

AGE: 16 HEIGHT: 5' 5"

LARGE-BREASTED, RESEMBLES A FASHION MODEL. WAIST-LENGTH BLACK HAIR. SPEAKS STANDARD JAPANESE. FRESHMAN, HOWA METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL.

BOING BOING

SCAN HOLOGRAPHIC SEAL BELOW TO DOWNLOAD SIGHTING REPORT TOOL.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

FUCK YOU!

FOR ALL OUR FRIENDS, ***MURDERED*** ONE BY ONE, WE MUST ***NEVER*** SUBMIT TO RIOFALDIAN SLAVERY! ***NEVER!***

HUMAN

EXAXXION

EVEN ***BEFORE*** THE ALLEGED "DESTRUCTION" FROM EXAXXION'S CANNON BLAST, MORE THAN ***THREE THOUSAND HUMANS*** HAD ALREADY GONE MISSING!

EXAXXION

EARTH DEFENSE FORCE

THOUSANDS, ***TAKEN AWAY*** BY RIOFALDIAN POLICE! ALL CONTACT WITH THEM... ***DENIED!***

AND ***WHOLE FAMILIES*** WERE ROUNDED UP, LEAVING NO ONE LEFT TO FILE MISSING PERSONS REPORTS! SO THE ***REAL*** NUMBERS ARE ***HIGHER STILL!***

HERE! LOOK AT THIS ***SCREEN,*** MY FRIENDS!!

THIS IS VIDEO OF A ***HUMAN PROCESSING PLANT*** DESTROYED BY EXAXXION'S CANNON! SEE THE ***MOUNTAIN OF BODIES!*** WOMEN, THE ELDERLY, BUSINESSMEN! STUDENTS AND ***CHILDREN!***

HUMAN

EXAXXION

THIS FOOTAGE COMES FROM A ***PIRATE BROADCAST,*** RUN ON NET TV BEFORE OUR ALIEN OPPRESSORS COULD ***CENSOR*** IT!

THE RIOFALDIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT THIS DAMNING VIDEO IS ***FAKED,*** BUT THAT'S CLEARLY ***IMPOSSIBLE!***

EARTH DEFENSE FORCE

HOW COULD SO-CALLED *"FAKED VIDEO"* OF THIS QUALITY--COMPLETELY INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM *"GENUINE"* FOOTAGE--BE MANUFACTURED WITHIN MERE *MINUTES* OF THE INCIDENT?

EXAXXION'S MUZZLE BLAST KILLED *THOUSANDS,* THAT'S TRUE...

...BUT AS WE CAN SEE, EVEN *BEFORE* THAT UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT, *GENOCIDE* WAS ALREADY WELL UNDERWAY IN OUR CITY!

GENOCIDE, THROUGHOUT *ALL* OF JAPAN... *NO!* GENOCIDE, ALL ACROSS THE *WORLD!* HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS--HOW MANY *MILLIONS*--OF HUMANS ARE BEING *SLAUGHTERED,* AT THIS VERY MOMENT?

YOU *TELL 'EM,* MAN!

HOW ABOUT SOME JOURNALISTIC *OBJECTIVITY,* OGURA?

HOICHI KANO MAY WELL HAVE ACCIDENTALLY CAUSED *COLLATERAL DAMAGE* WHILE FIGHTING OFF ALIEN ROBOTS...

...BUT OUR *RIOFALDIAN OPPRESSORS* ARE STILL SLAUGHTERING US AS PART OF THEIR OFFICIAL *GOVERNMENT POLICY!*

AH! WONDERED WHEN *THEY'D* SHOW UP...

UH OH...

POLITICAL AGITATION IS *STRICTLY PROHIBITED!* YOU ARE *UNDER ARREST.*

THNK

AAA...!

EARTH DEFEN

GULP

E.D.F.

ALL OF YOU HUMANS, *SPECTATORS* INCLUDED... *DON'T MOVE!*

WE'RE CONFISCATING *ALL RECORDINGS* OF THIS ILLEGAL SPEECH!

A *TRUCE* MAY BE IN EFFECT, BUT WE'RE STILL AUTHORIZED TO CARRY OUT *POLICE ACTIONS!*

ANYONE COMMITTING *CRIMINAL AGITATION* UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY ACT WILL BE *PUNISHED SEVERELY!*

YOU! HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT! DROP THAT *CAMERA!*

GAKK!

THIS *PATROL ROBOT* WILL NOW PERFORM BODY CHECKS ON ALL CROWD MEMBERS... SURRENDER *ALL* MEMORY DISKS AND CARDS!

VMMMMMM

VREEE VREEE VREEE

UNIT 102 REPORTING IN TO HQ...WE CAN'T STOP THIS CONTINUAL SPATE OF DEMONSTRATIONS BEFORE THE FOOTAGE GETS ONLINE...

...SO WHY AREN'T WE JUST SHUTTING DOWN THE PUBLIC DATA-LINES THEY'RE USING?

POLICE
S J22

AND WHY ARE WE BOTHERING WITH MERE ARRESTS AND CONFISCATION? BECAUSE WE'RE AFRAID OF SOME PIRATE BROADCASTER STIRRING UP THOSE MONKEYS? WE SHOULD BE GUNNING THEM DOWN AND HAULING THEM OUT BY THE CFO-LOAD!

LISTEN... DRACONIAN MEASURES MIGHT RISK ENCOURAGING ANTI-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS AMONG OUR OWN PEOPLE.

AND WE NEED THE PUBLIC LINES OPEN FOR OUR OWN USE, UNTIL OUR MILITARY DATALINES ARE HARDENED AND SECURED ADEQUATELY.

SO, CONTINUE TO ARREST AND CONFISCATE... AND NOTHING MORE.

DAMN!!

W-WAIT...! I WAS JUST HOLDING IT... I DIDN'T TAKE ANY PICTURES!

ALL RECORDING MEDIA WILL BE CONFISCATED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

HEY! GIVE THAT BACK!

IF YOU'VE BEEN CHECKED, MOVE BACK AND STAND AGAINST THE WALL! NOW!

MY CELL-PHONE--!

WE WILL ERASE ALL DATA, EXCEPT FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK.

A WHOLE DAY'S REPORTING, WASTED!
24
D MART
POLICE
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO THE PAGE WITHOUT VIDEO, ALL RIGHT?
OPEN
90
YOU SAW RIOFALDIAN INFORMATION CONTROL IN ACTION... THAT'S WORTH SOMETHING.
YEAH, WELL, NO ONE'S GONNA VISIT A PAGE WITHOUT VIDDY.
UM, 'SCUSE ME...
...BUT I HID THIS DISK I WAS SHOOTING IN SECRET!
I EVEN RECORDED THEM TAKING YOUR CAMERA!
YOU DID? AWE-SOME!
HUH? HOW DID YOU ...?
KUMAKITA! YOU'RE AMAZING, BABE!
THANKS, BUT IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY!
SO, AH... YOU WANNA GO BACK WITH ME TO THE CLUB ROOM AND, UH, EDIT THIS SUCKER...?
UM...NO, THANKS. I HAVE TO GO HOME, I'M AFRAID!
ISAKA...DO YOU MAKE RECORDINGS OF EVERY-THING YOU SEE?

ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding **Hoichi Kano.** She is using a nanotech disguise to appear as a young student while she collects data.

DO YOU HAVE AN *UPDATE* ON THE ANALYSIS OF *KANO'S BASE?*

YES, SIR.

WE'RE ABOUT TO RUN A *SIMULATION* THAT TESTS A NEW APPROACH TO *PHYSICALLY PENETRATING* ITS DEFENSES.

AND WHAT ARE THE RESULTS ON THE ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE *HOME-WORLD RESPONS-ES?*

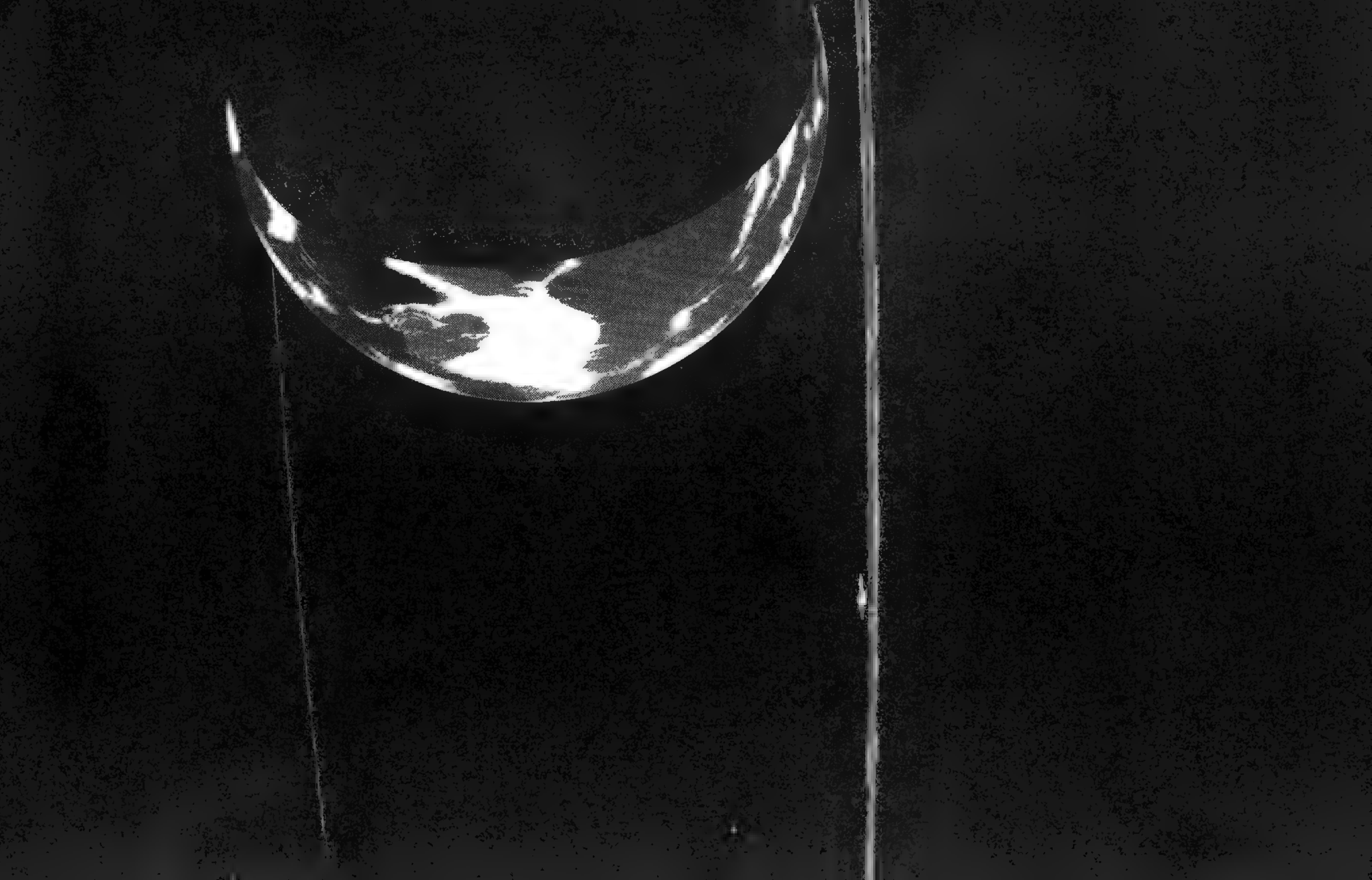
ASSUMING NO CHANGE IN *COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP* SINCE THE WORMHOLE COLLAPSE... HERE IS THE *ESTIMATE,* SIR.

HMM...SO WE *DON'T* HAVE MUCH TIME. THEY'LL USE THE BATTLESHIP *WEZABA'AR* TO OPEN A NEW GATE...

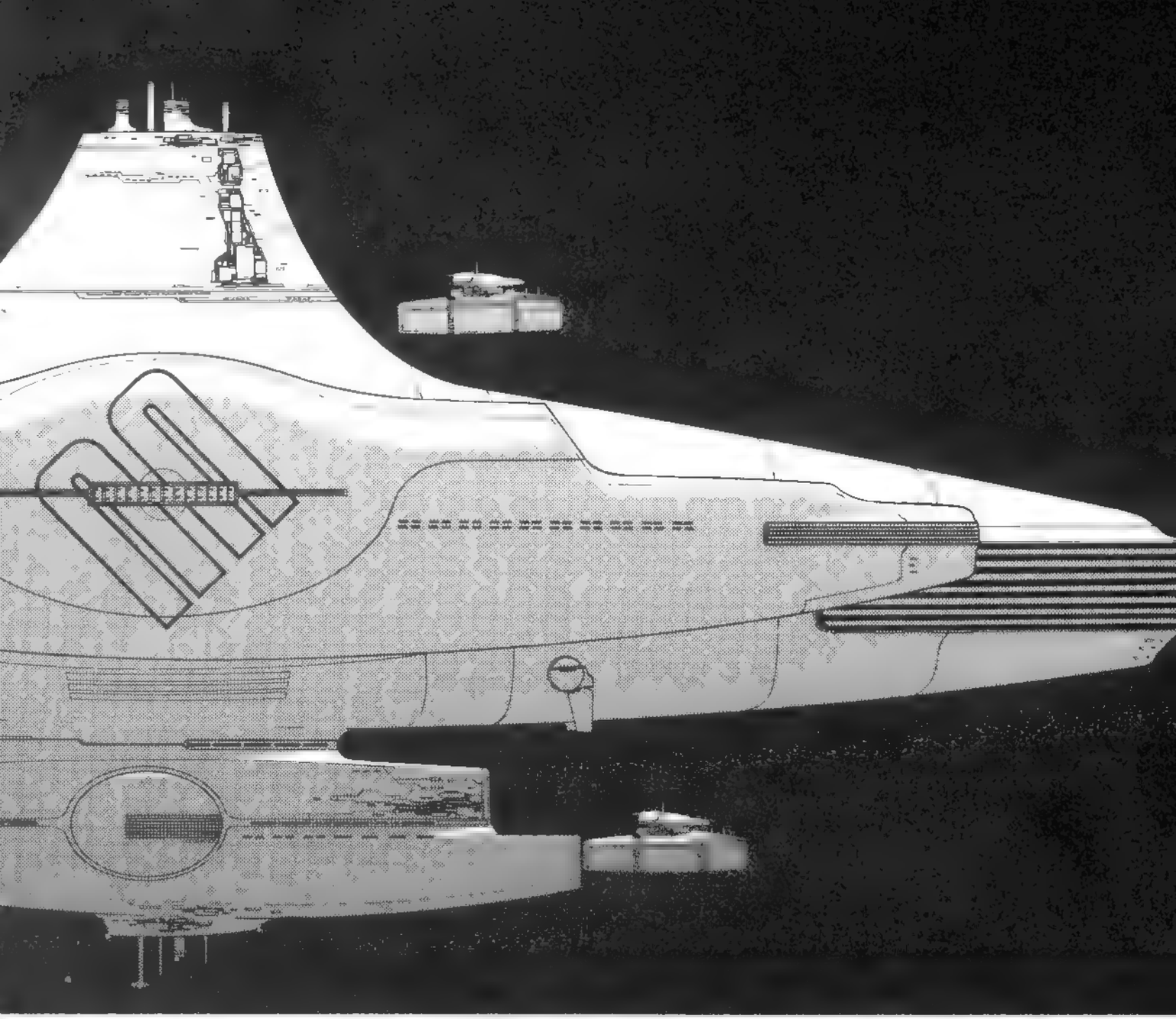
VMMMM

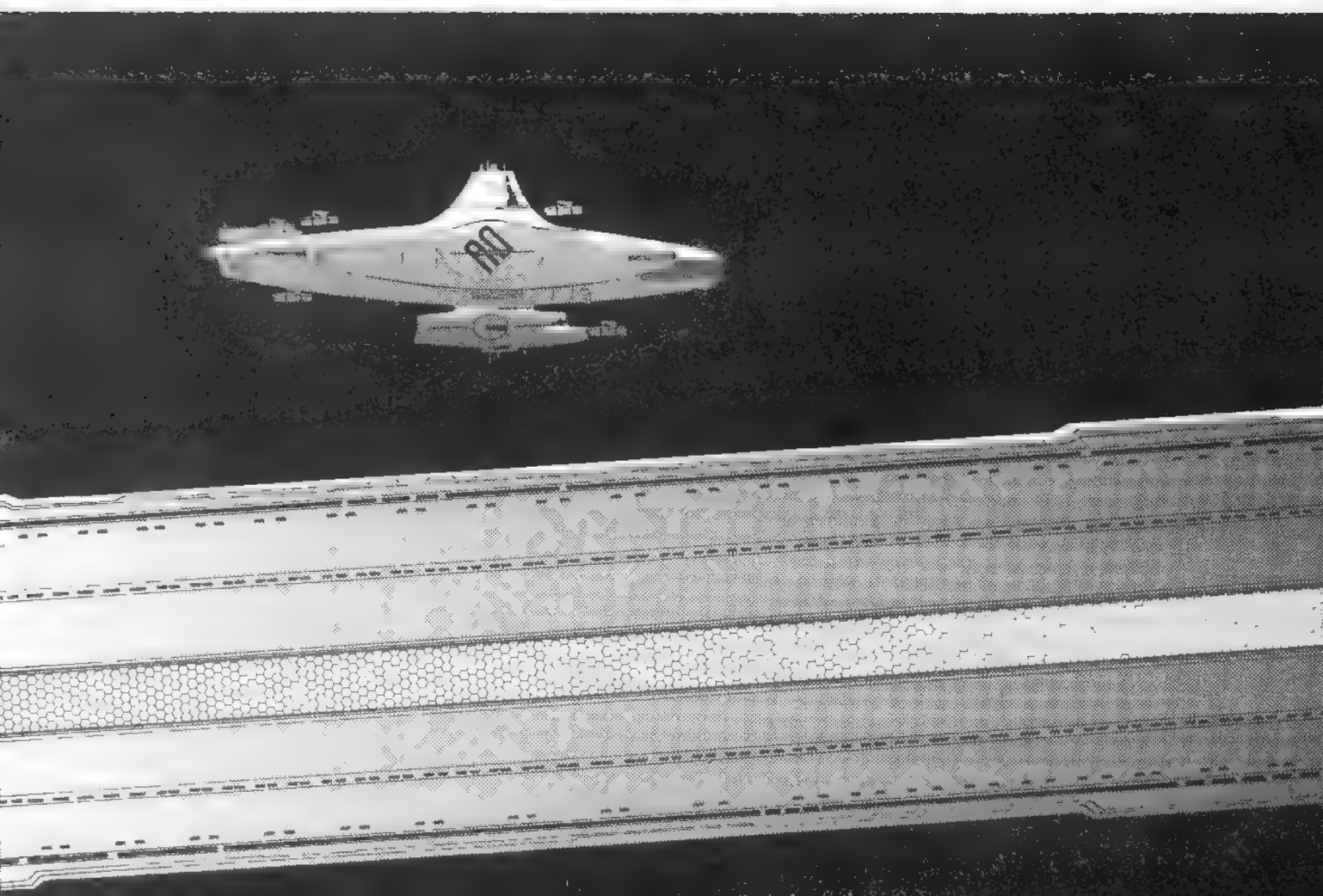
CALCULATE THE *GATE COORDI-NATES* THEY'RE MOST LIKELY TO USE!

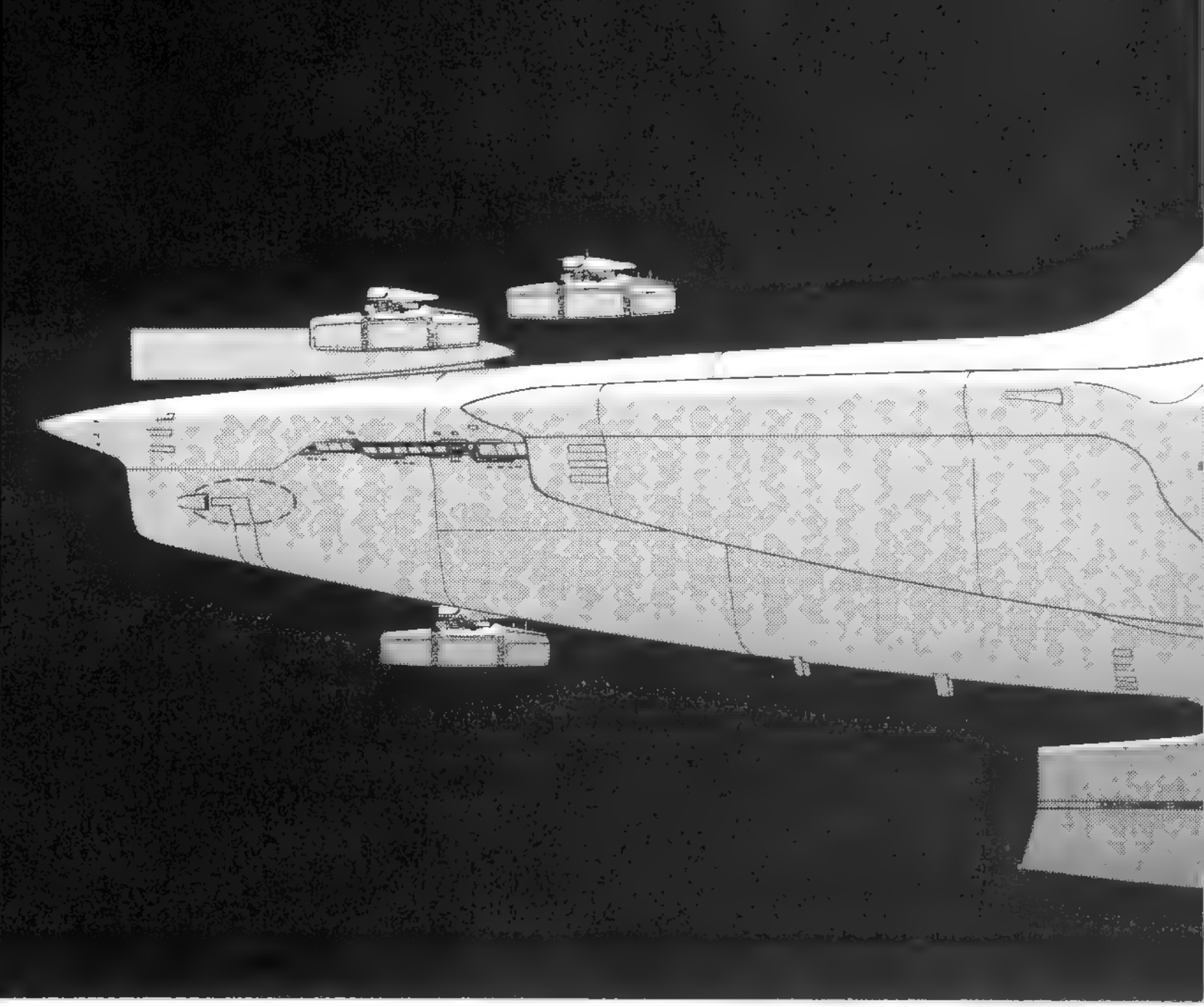
YES, *MAJOR GENERAL*

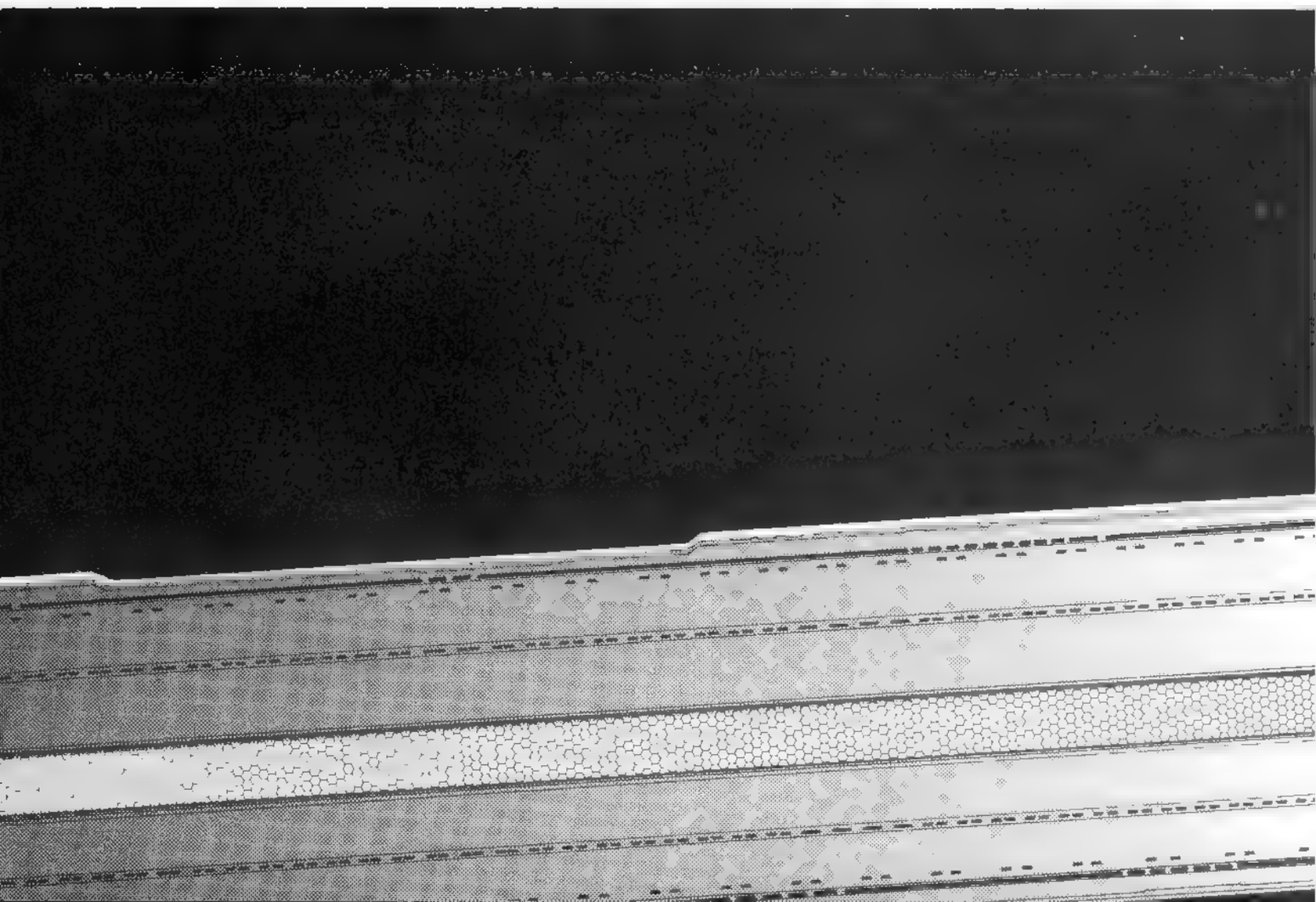


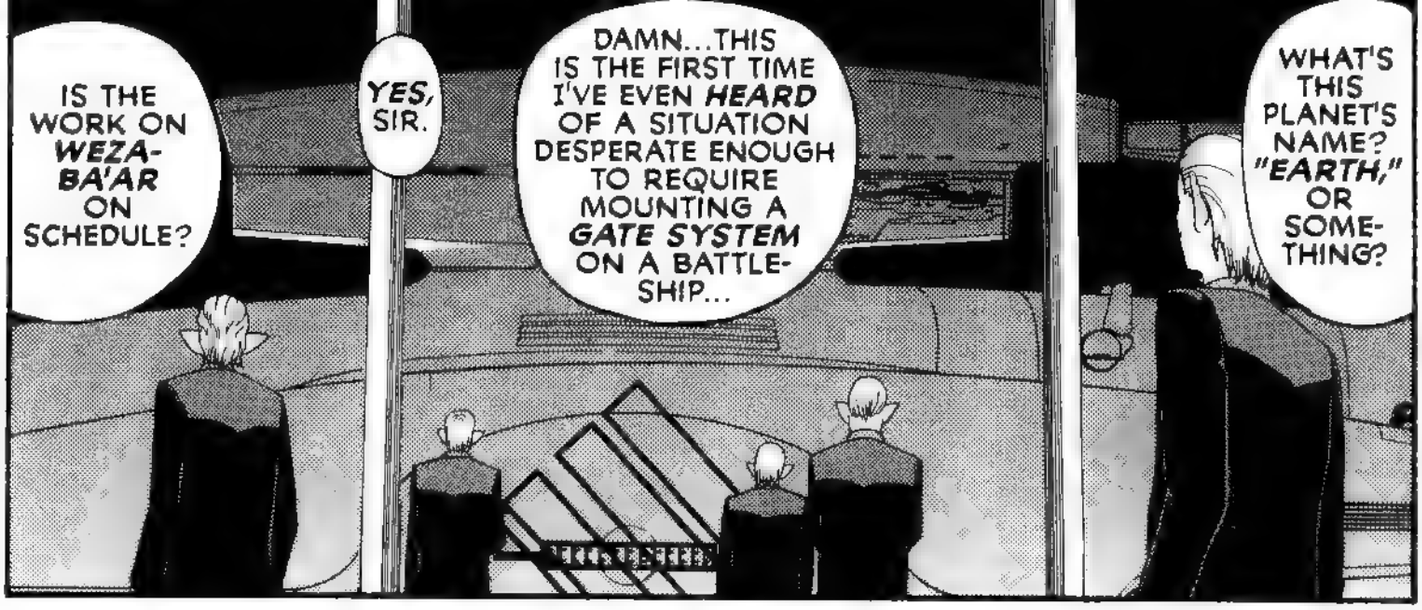
WE *HAVE* TO SECURE THAT *RA'UN META'AR* UNIT BEFORE THE *HOME-WORLD'S FORCES* PUNCH THROUGH THE GATE...

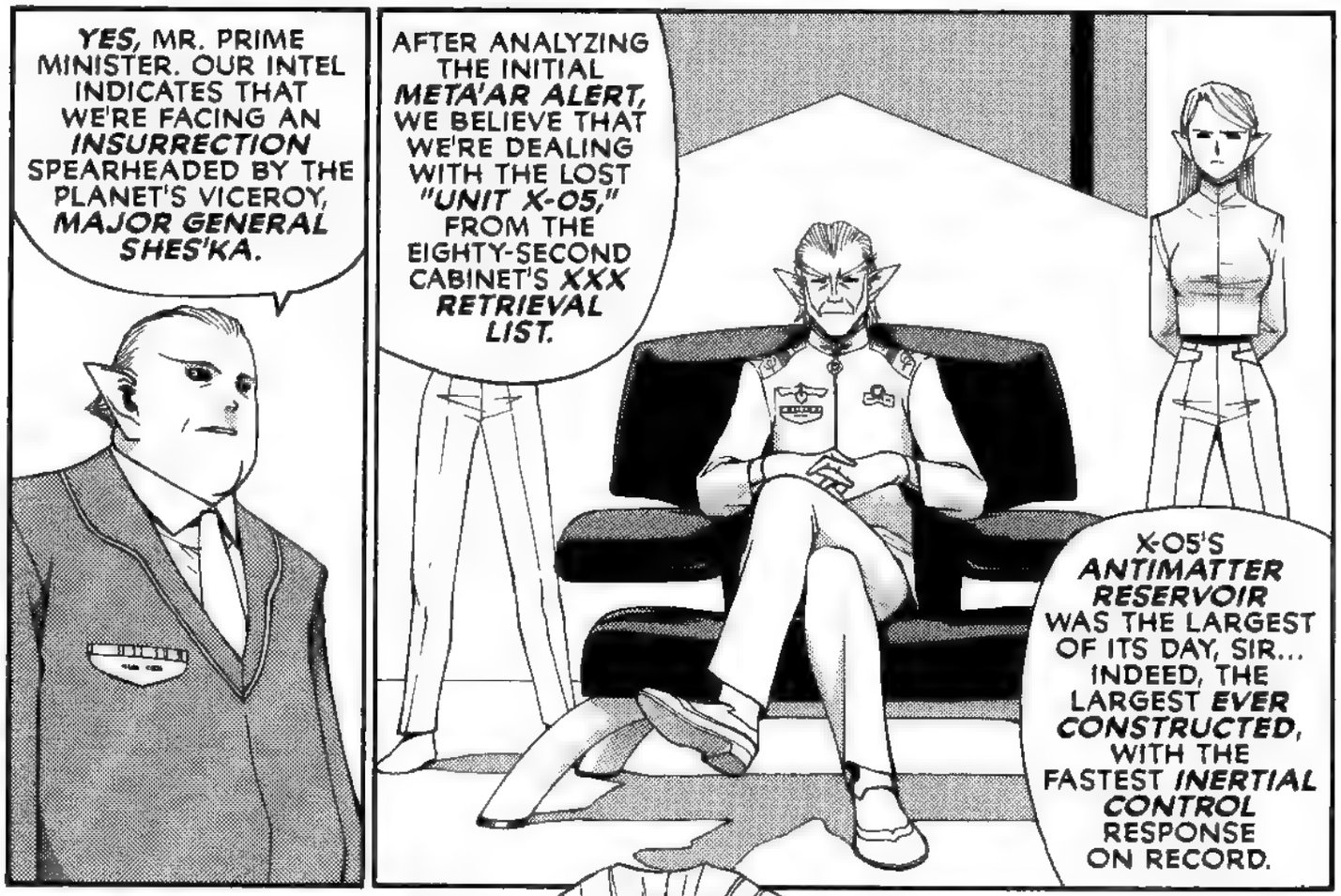









IS THE WORK ON *WEZA-BA'AR* ON SCHEDULE?
YES, SIR.
DAMN...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVEN *HEARD* OF A SITUATION DESPERATE ENOUGH TO REQUIRE MOUNTING A *GATE SYSTEM* ON A BATTLE-SHIP...
WHAT'S THIS PLANET'S NAME? *"EARTH,"* OR SOME-THING?


YES, MR. PRIME MINISTER. OUR INTEL INDICATES THAT WE'RE FACING AN *INSURRECTION* SPEARHEADED BY THE PLANET'S VICEROY, *MAJOR GENERAL SHES'KA.*
AFTER ANALYZING THE INITIAL *META'AR ALERT,* WE BELIEVE THAT WE'RE DEALING WITH THE LOST *"UNIT X-05,"* FROM THE EIGHTY-SECOND CABINET'S *XXX RETRIEVAL LIST.*
X-05'S *ANTIMATTER RESERVOIR* WAS THE LARGEST OF ITS DAY, SIR... INDEED, THE LARGEST *EVER CONSTRUCTED,* WITH THE FASTEST *INERTIAL CONTROL* RESPONSE ON RECORD.

SHES'KA... I KNOW HIS MIND *ALL* TOO DAMN WELL.
HE'S A CREATURE OF *PURE AMBITION...*IF HE'S GOT HIS HANDS ON THAT *XXX UNIT,* HE'S THINKING OF ONLY *ONE THING!*

HE'S PLANNING A *COUP D'ETAT AGAINST THE HOMEWORLD,* GENTLEMAN!
USING THE *FUSION REACTORS* WE PROVIDED THE EARTH, HE *WILL* OPEN A NEW GATE! HE *WILL* MOUNT A STRIKE ON THE HOMEWORLD, LET ME ASSURE YOU!
AND HE'LL COME WRAPPED IN *ARMOR* THAT CANNOT BE BREACHED BY *ANY* OF OUR HEAVIEST WEAPONRY!
YOU *CANNOT* ASSUME A DEFENSIVE POSTURE AGAINST AN ENEMY WHO CAN APPEAR ANYWHERE, AT ANY TIME! *NO!* YOU MUST *ATTACK FIRST!*

YOU CAN *REST ASSURED,* SIR, THAT WITH THE FACILITIES AT HIS DISPOSAL, HE CAN'T *POSSIBLY* OPEN A GATE BEFORE WE DO.

BY THE *END OF THE DAY* WHEN WE OPEN A WORMHOLE TO EARTH, THE X-05 UNIT WILL BE *OURS...*

THAT'S *WHOLLY* UNNECES-SARY.

AH... *PARDON,* SIR?

OUR MISSION IS TO *DESTROY* THE X-05 META'AR UNIT, GENTLEMEN! WE MUST ELIMINATE *ANY* UNCONTROLLED ASSET THAT COULD BE USED IN A *COUP,* NOW OR IN THE FUTURE!

EVEN IF WE HAVE TO *ANNIHILATE* THIS *"EARTH"* TO DO SO!

THE PLANET'S VALUE AS A COLONY IS *LIMITED*, OUR CIVILIAN POPULATION THERE IS *SMALL*, AND ANY MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO WOULD TURN ON THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT *DESERVE* TO DIE!

WE *LAUNCH* THE MOMENT THAT WEZABA'AR IS READY, GENTLE-MEN!

NORIKO! FUMIKA! WE'RE *HOME!*

KTHNKK

YO, IT'S *US*, GUYS.

KCHAK

WELCOME, YOU TWO... BUT YOU'RE *SO* VERY LATE!

WANT TO HAVE A MEAL *BEFORE* WE GO BACK TO THE BASE?

TO BE CONTINUED...

story and art by KENICHI SONODA

HOICHI "GUN" KANO Pilot of the **Exaxxion** robot, Hoichi fights to free humanity from invading **Riofaldian** forces

ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding **Hoichi Kano**.

WANT CHAMPAGNE? OR WOULD YOU PREFER BEER?
WE'VE GOT EBISU, GROLSCH, AND ANCHOR... ♥
SO, HOW DID "SAKO" GO OVER?
I THINK SHE'S GOT A FAN CLUB ALREADY.
UH... BEER? BUT... I'M STILL UH...
OH, COME ON! THE MOST WANTED MAN ON EARTH CAN'T HAVE A DRINK?
WELL, THEN... I'LL HAVE A GROLSCH.
OKAY... COMING RIGHT UP!
HOICHI, GET OVER TO THE HEAD OF THE TABLE AND GIVE US A TOAST!
HUH?

WANT *CHAMPAGNE?* OR WOULD YOU PREFER *BEER?*

WE'VE GOT *EBISU, GROLSCH,* AND *ANCHOR...* ♥

SO, HOW DID "SAKI" GO OVER?

I THINK SHE'S GOT A FAN CLUB ALREADY.

UH... *BEER?* BUT... I'M STILL UH...

OH, *COME ON!* THE MOST WANTED MAN ON EARTH CAN'T HAVE A *DRINK?*

WELL, THEN... I'LL HAVE A *GROLSCH.*

OKAY... COMING RIGHT UP!

HOICHI, GET OVER TO THE HEAD OF THE TABLE AND GIVE US A *TOAST!*

HUH?

HERE WE GO...

RIGHT... NOW, LET'S HAVE THAT *TOAST*, HUH?

UM...SO *WHAT* AM I SUPPOSED TO--

WE KNOW THAT YOU TOOK *AKANE* FOR YOUR OWN, RIGHT?

THNKK

AS INDICATED BY THE *BLOOD* ON THE *BEDSHEETS*, HMM?

WE HEARD *EVERYTHING* OVER THE BASE FEED, HOICHI! TELLING HER *DAD* OFF LIKE THAT... *"I MADE HER MINE, SIR!"* HOW *TERRIBLY* ROMANTIC! ❤

AND *SO* VERY MANLY! NORIKO *LOVES* MANLY!

WELL, HOICHI... WAS AKANE YOUR *FIRST?*

SO...UM... ARE YOU TWO *ORIGINALS?*

OF *COURSE* WE ARE! NOW, *ANSWER THE QUESTION!*

THERE'S *NOTHING* WRONG WITH STILL BEING A *VIRGIN* AT SIXTEEN, YOU KNOW... IT'S *NORMAL!*

H-HEY, *ISAKA*... HELP GET THESE TWO *OFF MY BACK,* HUH?

WHEN NORIKO AND THE OTHER GIRLS ARE BACK AT KANO'S BASE, THE ANDROID DOUBLES KEEP UP APPEARANCES FOR THEM ON THE SURFACE WORLD

=MMM=

=MMF=

=MMM=

HOLD ON... JUST A *MINUTE...*

WE'RE *DOWN-LOADING DATA* RIGHT NOW...

WHAT'S IT TO *YOU GUYS,* ANYWAY...?

ISAKA CAN'T HELP YOU OUT, HOICHI! NOW, *'FESS UP,* DAMMIT!

THIS IS *VERY IMPOR-TANT,* YOU KNOW!

YOU'RE HOICHI'S FIRST, AKANE.
I'M SURE OF IT.
YESSS!
DARN IT ..!
HUH? BUT HOW CAN YOU KNOW? JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE HIS MOTHER, THAT DOESN'T--
HAHH? WHA-?
OH, A MOTHER KNOWS, DEAR.
THEN, PAY UP, BOTH OF YOU! I WIN!
W-WAIT A SECOND!
THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN WAGERING ON YOU TWO...
I BET THAT THE EXPERIENCE WOULD BE TROUBLE-FREE, REMEMBER?
"TROUBLE-FREE"...? SINCE WHEN IS PREMATURE EJACULATION CONSIDERED TROUBLE-FREE?!
AUNTIE REIKO...DO YOU MEAN IT? GUN SEEMED SO, WELL... EXPERIENCED.

AKANE HINO A bright, investigative teen reporter, Akane is deeply in love with **Hoichi Kano**. Since the Riofadian invasion, her involvement with Hoichi has made her and her family targets of the aliens' military forces.

MEANING... HE GAVE YOU ORAL, RIGHT?
WH-WH-WHA--?!
B-BUT, AUNTIE... THAT'S NOT... I DIDN'T MEAN...
OH, PLEASE! ALL THOSE VIDEOS HE'S BEEN HIDING ARE LIKE THAT.
HE WAS JUST COPYING THEM.
FMPP
JEEZ, MEN ARE SUCH SIMPLETONS...
HE WATCHES CUNNI-LINGUS VIDEOS? THAT'S KINDA DIFFER-ENT...
AND REIKO'S SEEN HOICHI'S THINGIE, TOO...

HOICHI'S *AND* HOSUKE'S, OF COURSE. I THINK THEY'RE *BOTH* CUTE.

MASTER *HOSUKE'S* THINGIE ...?

YOU CALL *THAT* CUTE ...?

OH, REIKO, YOU'RE *SO* AWFUL! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HOICHI'S, BUT *HOSUKE'S...?*

IT'S SO *LONG!* AND *THICK!* AND *DARK!* AND *SCARY!*

=NFF=

=HAAAHH=

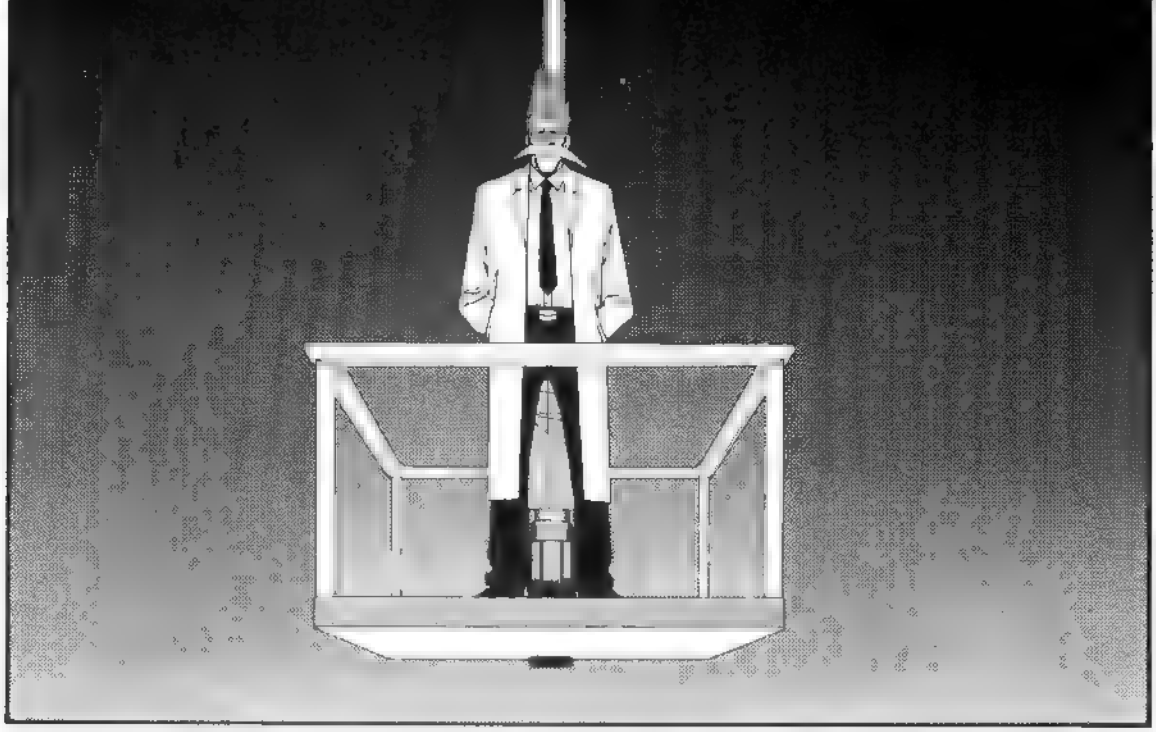
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE BEING ATTACKED BY A *DEMON!*

AKANE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

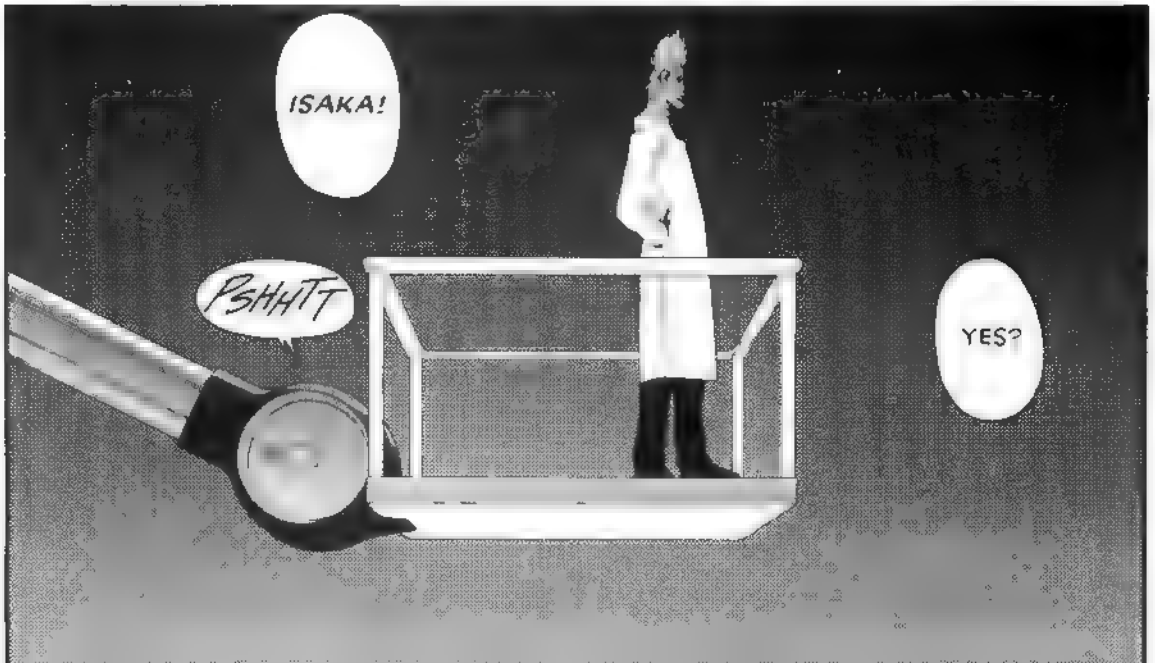
SHE'S GETTING *WOOZY!*

GET HER *OUT* OF THE SAUNA!

REIKO, YOU'VE *EMBARRASSED* HER TO DEATH!



VMMMMM
MMMMMM


ISAKA!
PSHHTT
YES?

YOU *STILL* WON'T LET ME UPDATE THE *CONTROL SYSTEM,* WILL YOU?

4096 CANNON 12/21

WHO DO YOU THINK HAS THE *BETTER MIND* FOR TACTICS AND STRATEGY? HOICHI... OR *ME?*

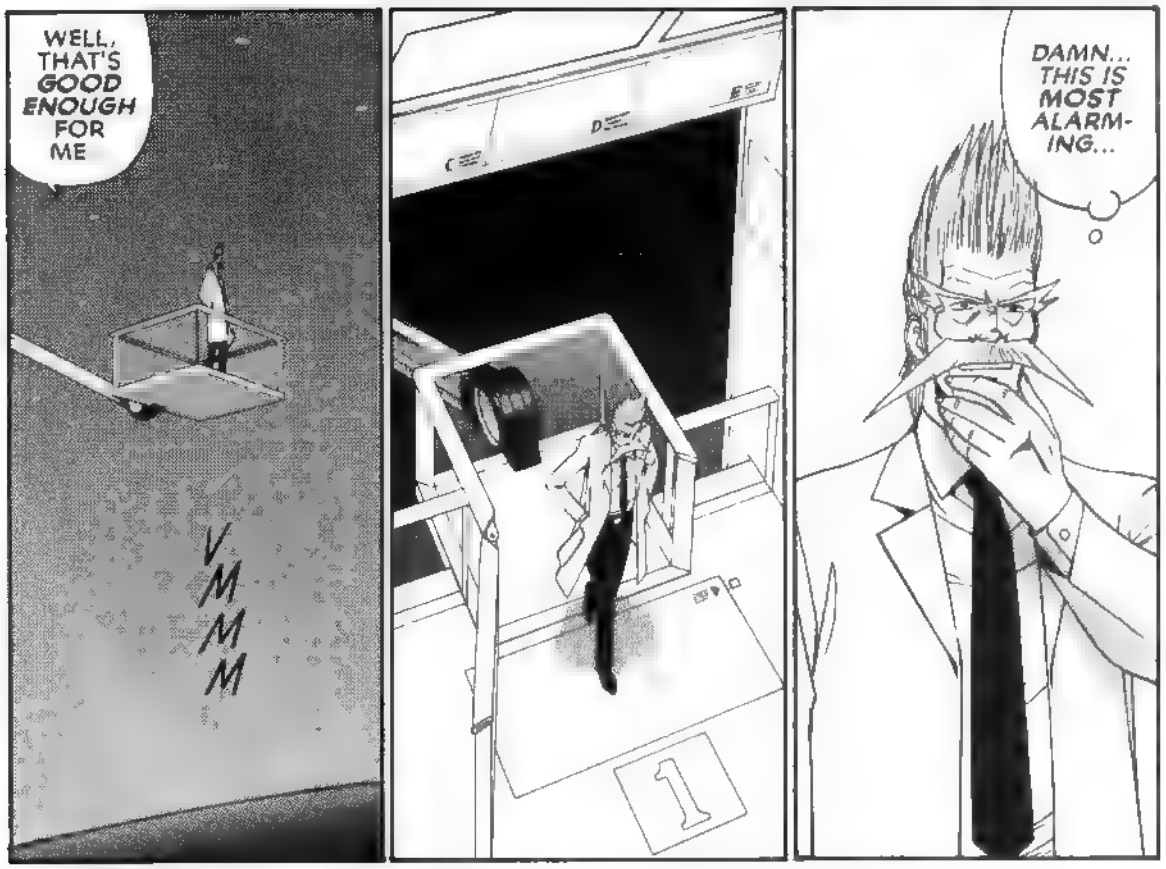
WHY, *YOU,* OF COURSE, MASTER HOSUKE.

I CAN'T DO THAT, SIR... NOT IF I'M GOING TO *PRIORITIZE* HOICHI'S COMMANDS, AS I WAS *PROGRAMMED* TO DO.

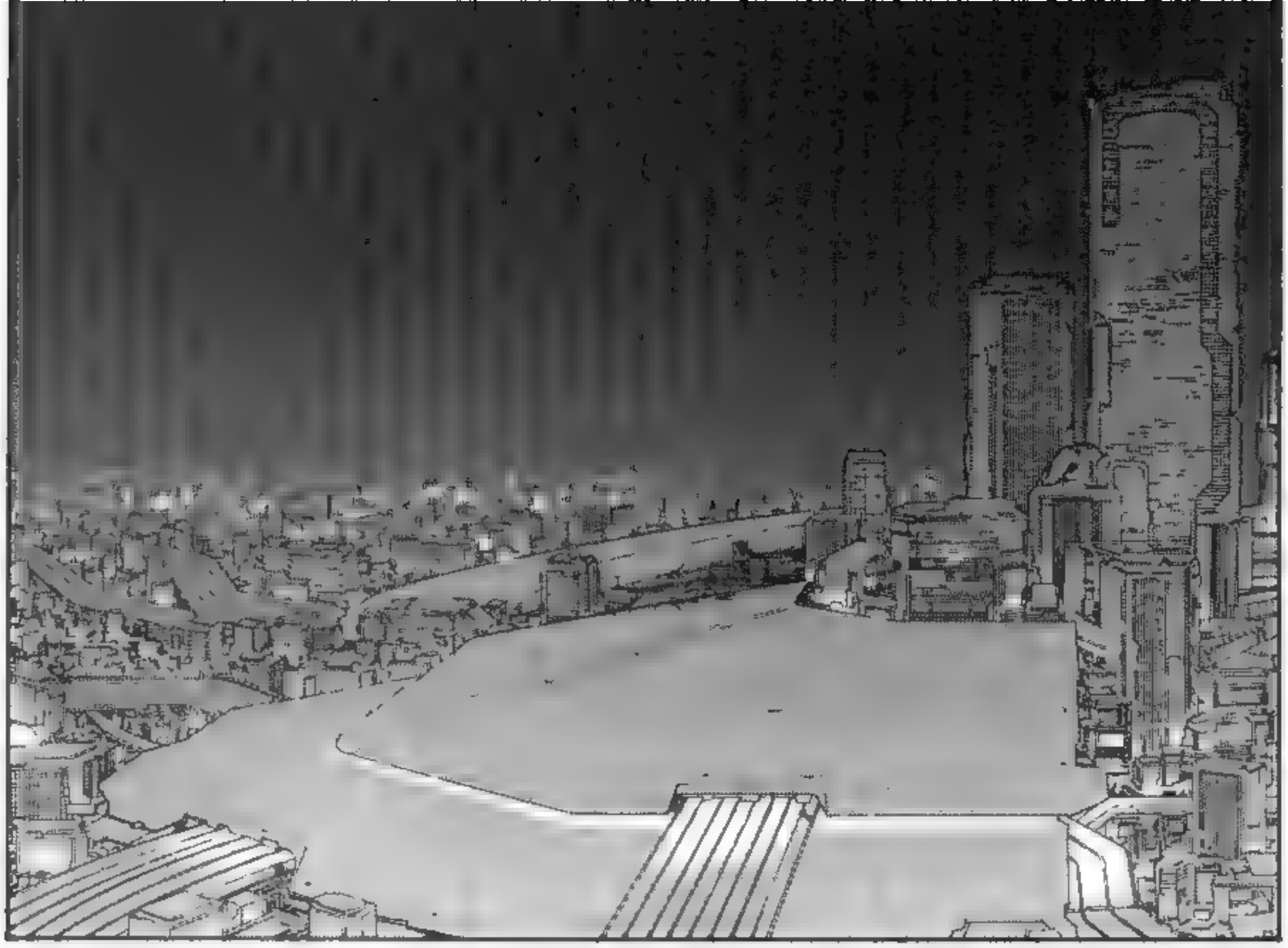
EXXION

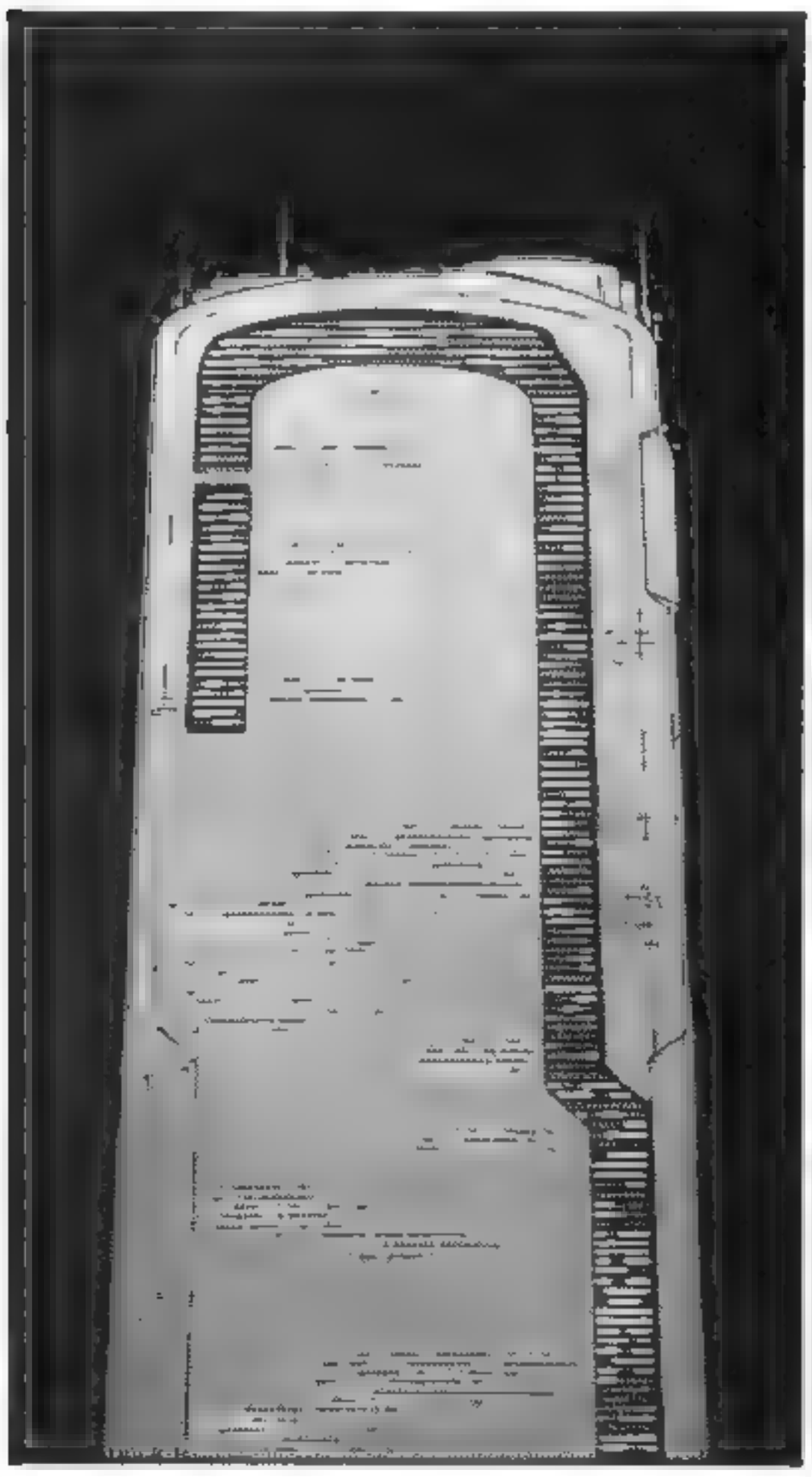
BUT WHEN CONDITIONS DON'T ALLOW AN *ACCURATE ASSESSMENT* OF LIKELY OUTCOMES, I PREFER TO FOLLOW *HOICHI'S* ORDERS.

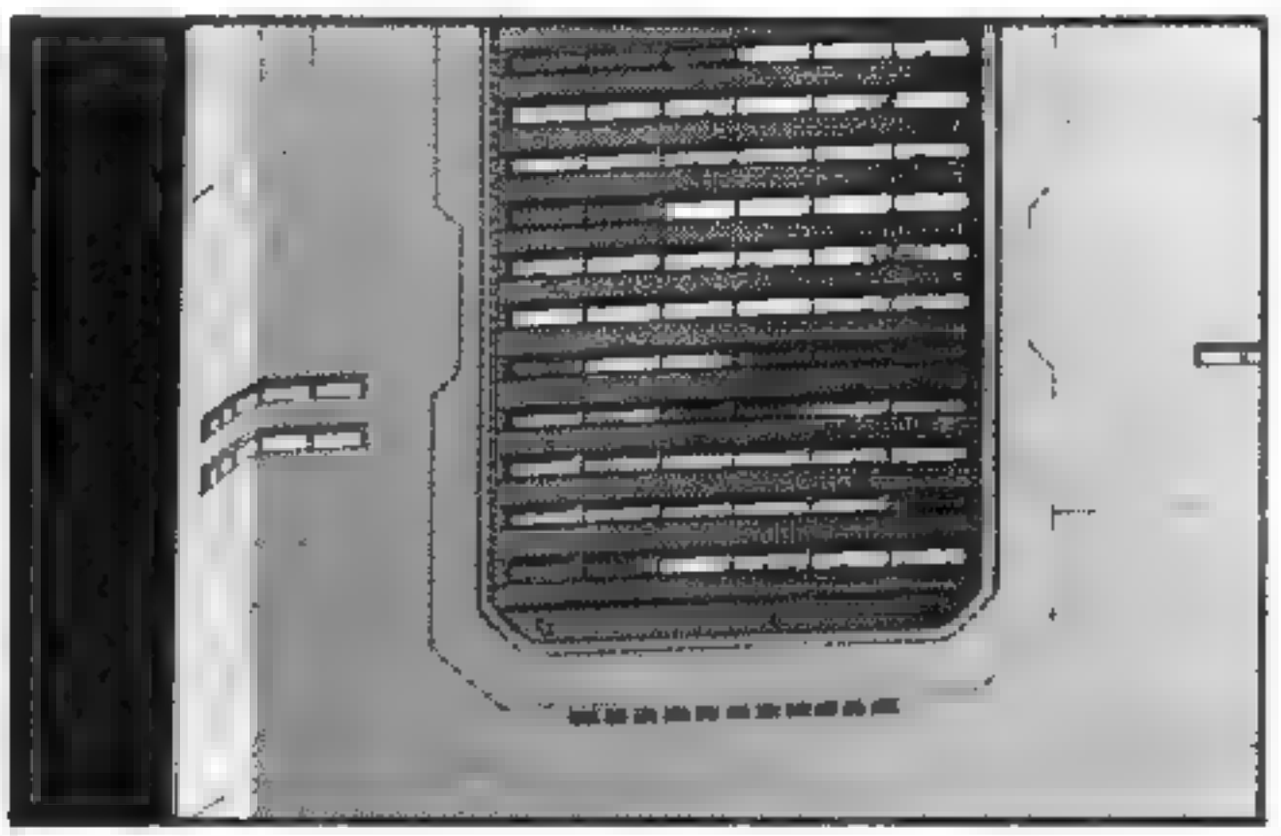
SO, YOU'LL FOLLOW MY ORDERS... IF THE *CONDITIONS* ARE RIGHT?

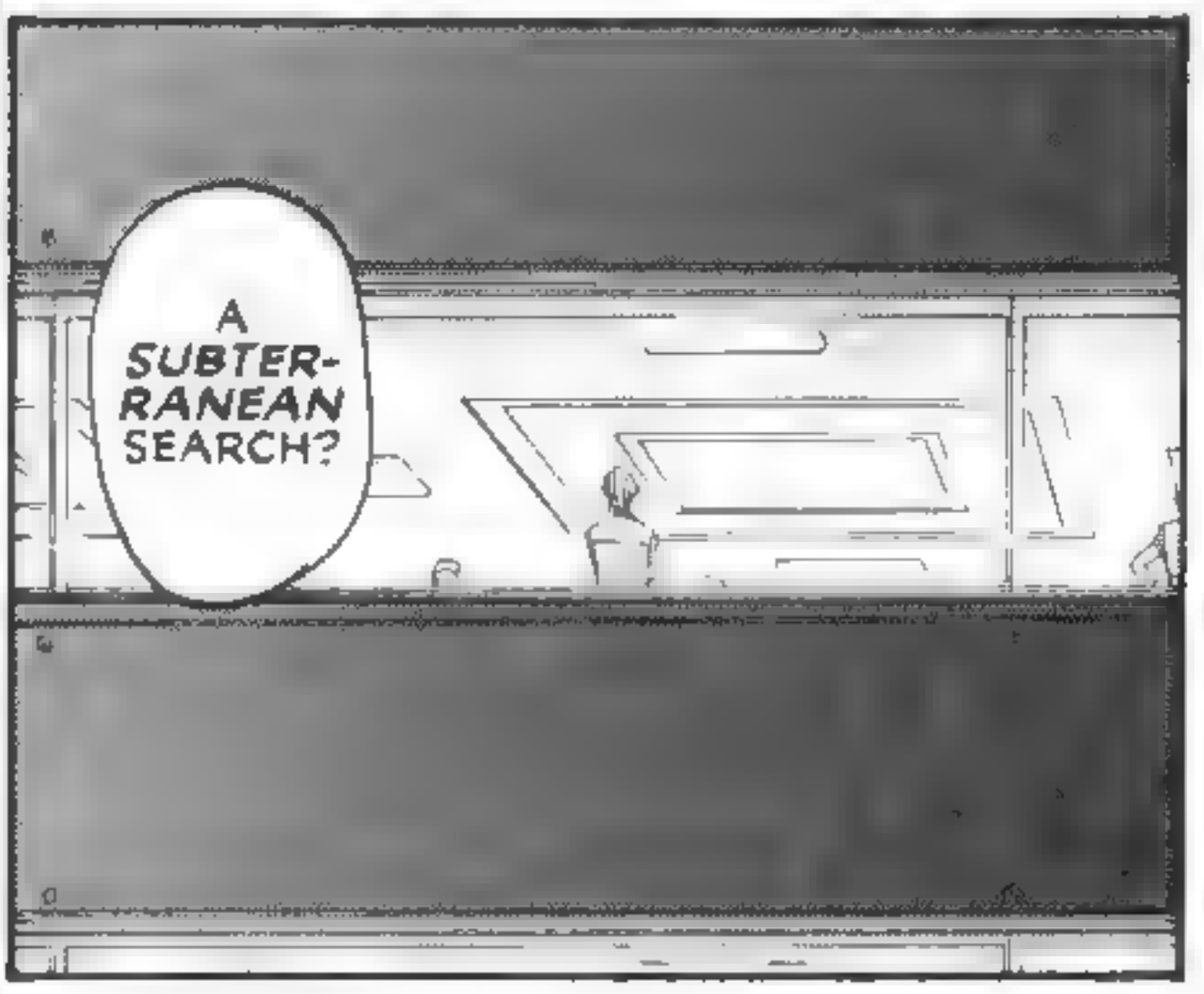


HOSUKE KANO Ho chi's father a brilliant yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the **Exaxxion** super robot for humanity's defense

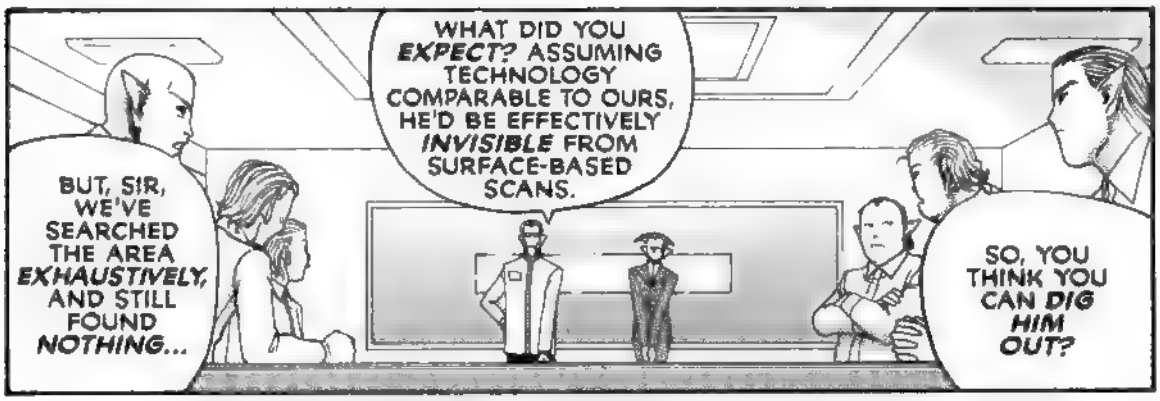


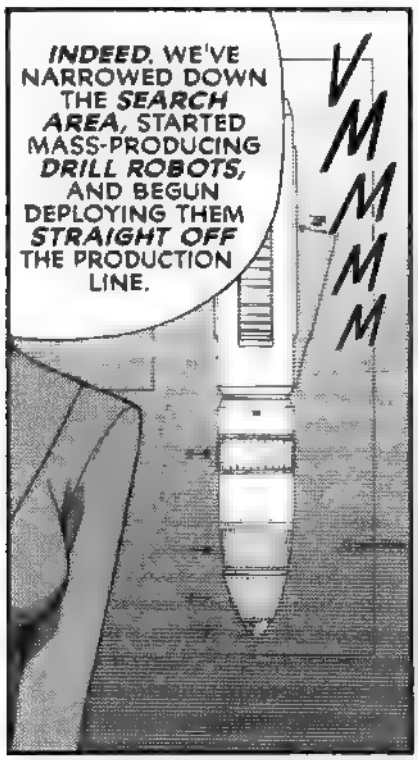





A SUBTER-RANEAN SEARCH?

AFTER ALL, HE WAS STILL *FORTIFYING* THE PLACE AS RECENTLY AS A *DECADE* AGO.
CORRECT. KANO'S BASE BOASTS DEFENSES THAT ARE *TOP OF THE LINE,* EVEN BY OUR STANDARDS...YET IT *MUST* HAVE SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT ROUTES.


WHAT DID YOU *EXPECT?* ASSUMING TECHNOLOGY COMPARABLE TO OURS, HE'D BE EFFECTIVELY *INVISIBLE* FROM SURFACE-BASED SCANS.
BUT, SIR, WE'VE SEARCHED THE AREA *EXHAUSTIVELY,* AND STILL FOUND *NOTHING...*
SO, YOU THINK YOU CAN *DIG HIM OUT?*


INDEED. WE'VE NARROWED DOWN THE *SEARCH AREA,* STARTED MASS-PRODUCING *DRILL ROBOTS,* AND BEGUN DEPLOYING THEM *STRAIGHT OFF* THE PRODUCTION LINE.
VMMMM

THE COMMITTEE *NEVER* AUTHORIZED THAT! HOW COULD YOU *IGNORE* US?
AND WHAT IF YOU *DID* FIND KANO'S SUPPLY ROUTES? THEY'D BE *SUPER HARDENED* LIKE THE REST OF THE BASE, TOO!

WE HAVE THE *SUPREME COUNCIL'S* PERMISSION, GENTLEMEN.
AND SINCE THESE ROUTES HAVE TO BE USED *FAR* MORE OFTEN THAN, SAY, THE BASE'S *MAIN HATCH,* THEY'RE LIKELY TO BE *CONSIDERABLY* MORE VULNERABLE, DON'T YOU THINK?

THIS OPERATION IS *ALREADY* UNDERWAY. IF YOU DISAGREE WITH OUR METHODS, *DO* FEEL FREE TO INFORM THE *SUPREME COUNCIL.*

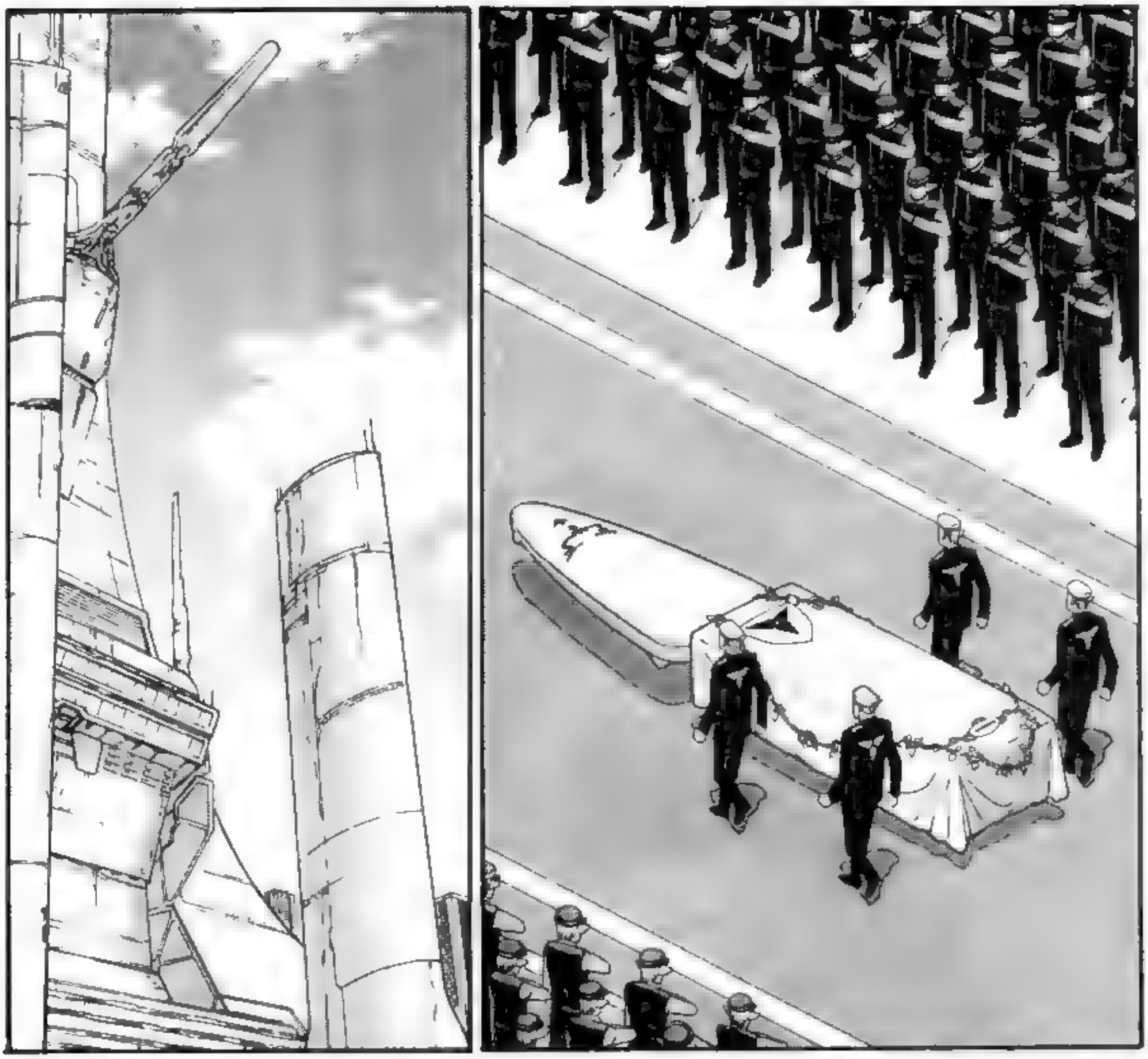
AND *SO,* GENTLEMEN... MAY WE ASSUME THAT WE HAVE YOUR *BLESSINGS* TO PROCEED?

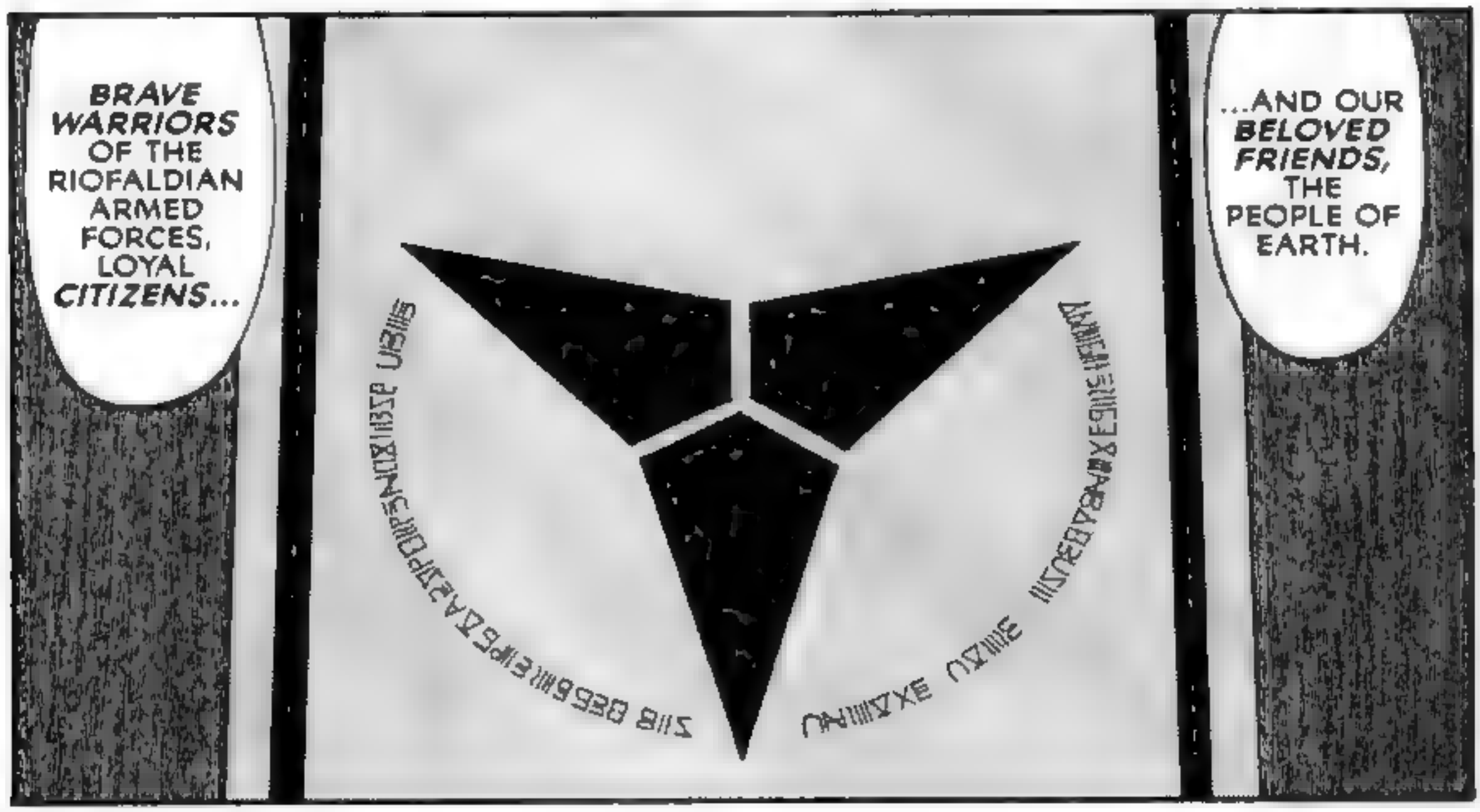
HEH...

HE'S JUST A DAMN *DOCTOR,* BUT HE'S GOT THE *SUPREME COUNCIL* ON HIS SIDE..

DON'T WORRY WHEN HE *FAILS* TO FIND KANO'S WEAK SPOT, HE'LL BE *HISTORY.* LET'S GIVE HIM PLENTY OF ROPE TO *HANG* HIMSELF...

FSHHH
FWOOSH
WHROOM
WE'RE ALMOST HOME, HOICHI.
PLEASE WAKE UP, WON'T YOU?
WHSHH




BRAVE WARRIORS OF THE RIOFALDIAN ARMED FORCES, LOYAL CITIZENS...
...AND OUR BELOVED FRIENDS, THE PEOPLE OF EARTH.

THANK YOU ALL FOR *JOINING ME* IN PAYING OUR LAST RESPECTS TO OUR MAGNIFICENT AMBASSADOR, MAJOR GENERAL *ZOBROZAPHKA SHES'KA.*

WHAT *WORDS* CAN ADEQUATELY EULOGIZE OUR GREAT LEADER, WHO MADE THE *GREATEST OF SACRIFICES* IN HIS HEROIC BATTLE TO ENSURE *LAW AND ORDER* ON RIOFALDIAN EARTH?

THERE MAY *YET* BE HUMAN FRIENDS WHO HAVE STILL NOT *RECONCILED* THEMSELVES TO UNIFICATION UNDER RIOFALDIAN AUTHORITY.

AND YET, WE MERELY WRITE THE LATEST AND MOST *GENTLEMANLY* PAGE IN THE LONG PLANETARY HISTORY OF *OCCUPATION* AND *UNIFICATION,* ENSCRIBED BY EARTH'S OWN RULERS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

ALLOW ME TO QUOTE FROM GENERAL SHES'KA'S OWN *GRADUATE DISSERTATION...*

*"ALL INTELLIGENT RACES ADVANCE BECAUSE THE INSTINCT TO **EXPAND THEIR TERRITORY** IS WRITTEN INTO THEIR GENES. THE STRUGGLE FOR HEGEMONY SHALL **NEVER** END, NEITHER TODAY NOR IN ALL TIME.*

"THE STRONG RACES SHALL INCORPORATE THE WEAK, AND RISE TO GREATER HEIGHTS STILL. WITH THE CALM GAZE OF HISTORY, WE SEE THAT THIS IS HOW THE STRONG PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE WEAK.

"ALL RACES ARE FATED, IN TIME, TO BE THE RULER OR THE RULED. THE ONLY QUESTION WE MUST ASK IS WHETHER THAT RULE SHALL BE BRUTAL, OR ENLIGHTENED.

"AS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE RIOFALDIAN RACE, AS AN OFFICER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF RIOFALD, I DEDICATE MYSELF TO SEEKING THE MOST RATIONAL COURSE TO THAT GOAL."

AS WE CAN SEE, IN HIS HEART, GENERAL SHES KA WAS THE GREATEST PACIFIST OF ALL. COUNTLESS INNOCENTS HAVE INDEED DIED IN OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST EXAXXION...BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THE HEARTLESS KANO FAMILY MANIACALLY PURSUES A STRATEGIC VICTORY THAT THEY CAN NEVER ACHIEVE.

WHAT WAS THE POINT IN MAKING US DECK OUT THAT CASKET, EVEN DOWN TO THE PLUSH LINING? SHEESH, IT'S EMPTY ANYWAY

NOT LIKE ANYONE'S GONNA OPEN IT...

SHUT UP, BACK THERE!

THANKS TO MALICIOUS PIRATE BROADCASTS AND THE REACTIONARY SCHEMES OF THE KANO FAMILY...

...SHES'KA WAS FALSELY BRANDED A VILLIAN, SMEARED WITH OUTRAGEOUS, UNSUPPORTED CLAIMS THAT HE SLAUGHTERED HUMAN PRISONERS IN SPECIAL PROCESSING PLANTS!

YET HISTORY TEACHES US THAT **ALL** UNIFIERS MUST BEAR THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF **MALCONTENTS** AMONG THEIR SUBJECTS. LIBELOUSLY CHARACTERIZED AS A TYRANT, SHES'KA STILL CHOSE TO ACCEPT THE **BURDENS OF LEADERSHIP.**

I UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE A **MESSAGE** FROM HIS GRIEVING WIDOW.

VMMM

THANK YOU, **ALL** OF YOU, FOR HONORING MY **BELOVED HUSBAND.**

I AM **FA'ARA SHES'KA.**

THIS MORNING, I'VE FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO CONQUER MY **TEARS** LONG ENOUGH TO SPEAK.

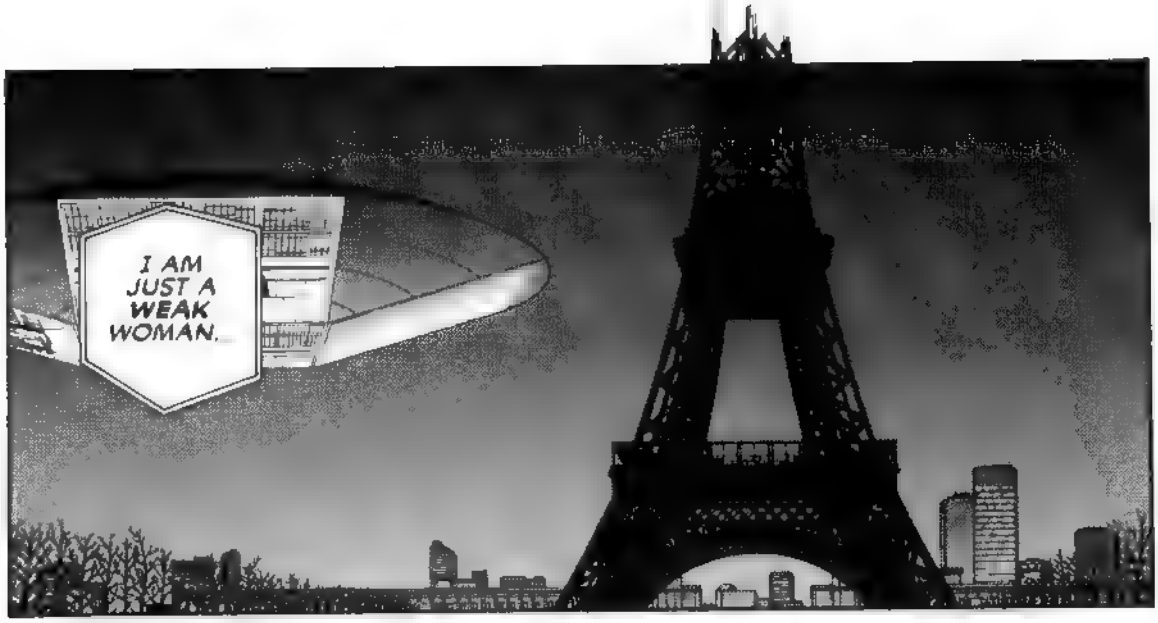
07:05

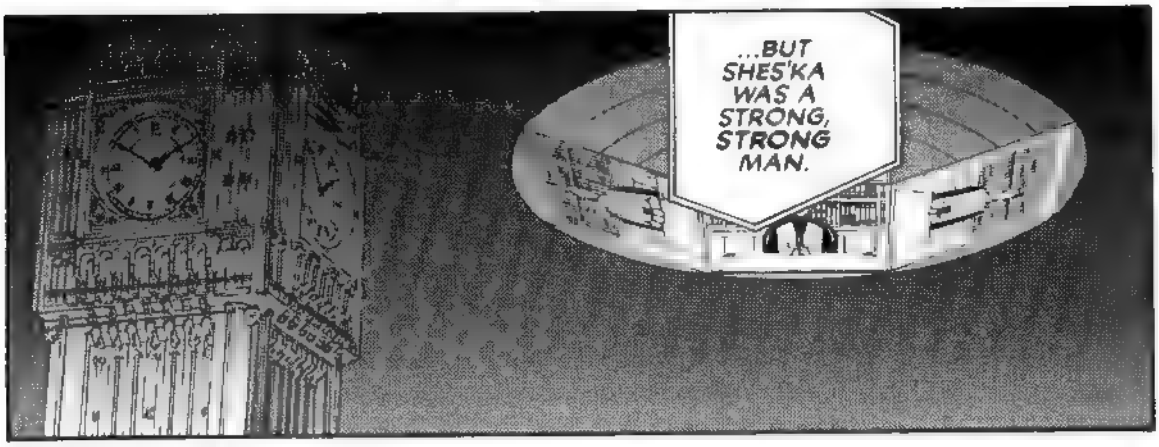
HAS RIOFALD EVER HAD A MORE RESPONSIBLE **CITIZEN...** OR A BETTER **FRIEND?**

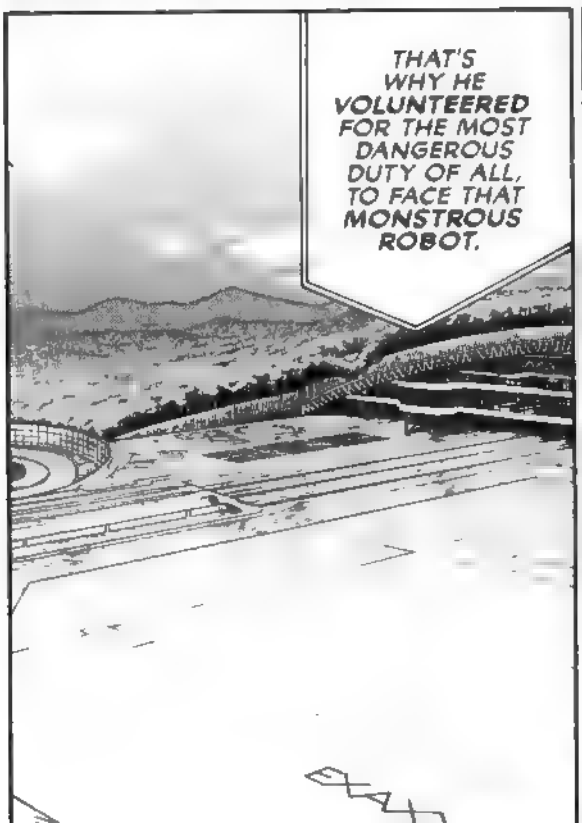
WHEN I MARRIED A MILITARY MAN, I **THOUGHT** THAT I WAS PREPARED...

...BUT IT SEEMS THAT MY **HEART** BETRAYS ME STILL.

Lucky Road


I AM JUST A WEAK WOMAN.


...BUT SHES'KA WAS A STRONG, STRONG MAN.


THAT'S WHY HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE MOST DANGEROUS DUTY OF ALL, TO FACE THAT MONSTROUS ROBOT.

I KNOW THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL BURN WITH THE SAME UNQUENCHABLE FIRE AS MY BELOVED...
HMFF.

=Yawn=

HMM?

OH! MASTER HOSUKE! *GOOD MORNING!* ❤

HRMM... *MORN-ING.*

THANK YOU MRS. SHES'KA

OH! THEY'RE DOING THE *MEMORIAL SPEECHES!*

YEAH. THEY JUST HAD SHES'KA'S *WIFE* ON... WE *HAVE* TO DO SOMETHING.

LIKE, SAY, SHOWING THAT THIS IS *CANNED FOOTAGE?* WE CAN RUN *OUTTAKES* OF HER LAUGHING OR MESSING UP HER *TELE-PROMPTER* READS?

YES, MY DEAR... THAT'LL DO *JUST FINE.*

SHMPP

IN FACT, MAYBE MY LI'L *SIERRA* CAN WHIP UP THE FOOT-AGE...

HAHH? WHY ME...?
WHY NOT? NORIKO'LL HELP YOU POLISH UP THE FINISHED VIDEO.
GOOD MORN-ING!
I'VE COME TO CHANGE THE LINENS!
GOOD MORNING, ISAKA--
WHSSH
FWAP
SHMPP
FSHNGG
3.1 SECONDS!
KLAPP KLAPP
A NEW RE-CORD!

MASTER HOSUKE? THE ENEMY IS *AIRDROPPING ROBOTS* ALL AROUND THE BASE.

HUH ...?

PSHTT

THEY APPEAR TO HAVE DEPLOYED OVER *300 ROBOTIC DRILLS* IN TOWN AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY-SIDE.

WE BELIEVE THIS OPERATION'S BEEN GOING ON *ALL NIGHT.*

OH! JUST RECEIVED THE *LATEST ANALYSIS,* SIR!

THEY'RE PACKED WITH SHORT-RANGE, *HIGH-RESOLU-TION* SENSORS.

HA! COULDN'T GET ANY RESULTS FROM *BROAD-SCALE* SCANS, SO THEY'RE GOING *PINPOINT...* BUT MAKING UP THE SCALE DIFFERENCE VIA *SHEER NUMBERS.*

LOOKING FOR HOW WE GET *IN* AND *OUT* OF HERE...

SHALL I *RECALL* NORIKO AND FUMIKA TO THE BASE, SIR?

HMM... BETTER *DO* THAT.

IT'S *HARD* ON THE KIDS, BUT VACATION'S *OVER.* PUT THE BASE ON *FULL DEFENSE* MODE.

I *KNEW* IT...

THEY'RE TRYING TO CRACK THE *UNDER-GROUND.*

VMMM

IS *THAT* ONE OF 'EM?

YES, SIR. BUT WE ONLY HAVE IMAGERY OF THE *DESCENT CAPSULES,* NOT THE ACTUAL *DRILL UNITS...*

WHAT'S THE *CLOSEST* THEY'VE HIT TO ONE OF OUR LINES?

150 METERS NORTH OF THE *SUBWAY'S* SIXTH SHUTTER POINT, SIR.

THINK THEY'VE *FOUND* IT?

NO, NOT *YET...* THEY'D HAVE TO GET WITHIN *TWENTY METERS.*

BUT WITH THE RATE THAT THEY'RE *DEPLOYING* THESE THINGS, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME...

THEY'RE UP TO 420 UNITS PROPPED..

BE READY TO *SEAL OFF* THE WHOLE SYSTEM... AT *ANY MOMENT.*

FMDP

I'M *DOUBLE-CHECKING* EVERY SUBWAY LINE RIGHT NOW, SIR...

SHNKK

SKREEEE

AH--!

M- *MASTER HOSUKE...*

...A DRILL JUST *STRUCK THE TUBE!* AT THE *31ST SHUTTER POINT,* LOOKS LIKE...

GET 'EM BACK HERE, *PRONTO!*

RMMBB

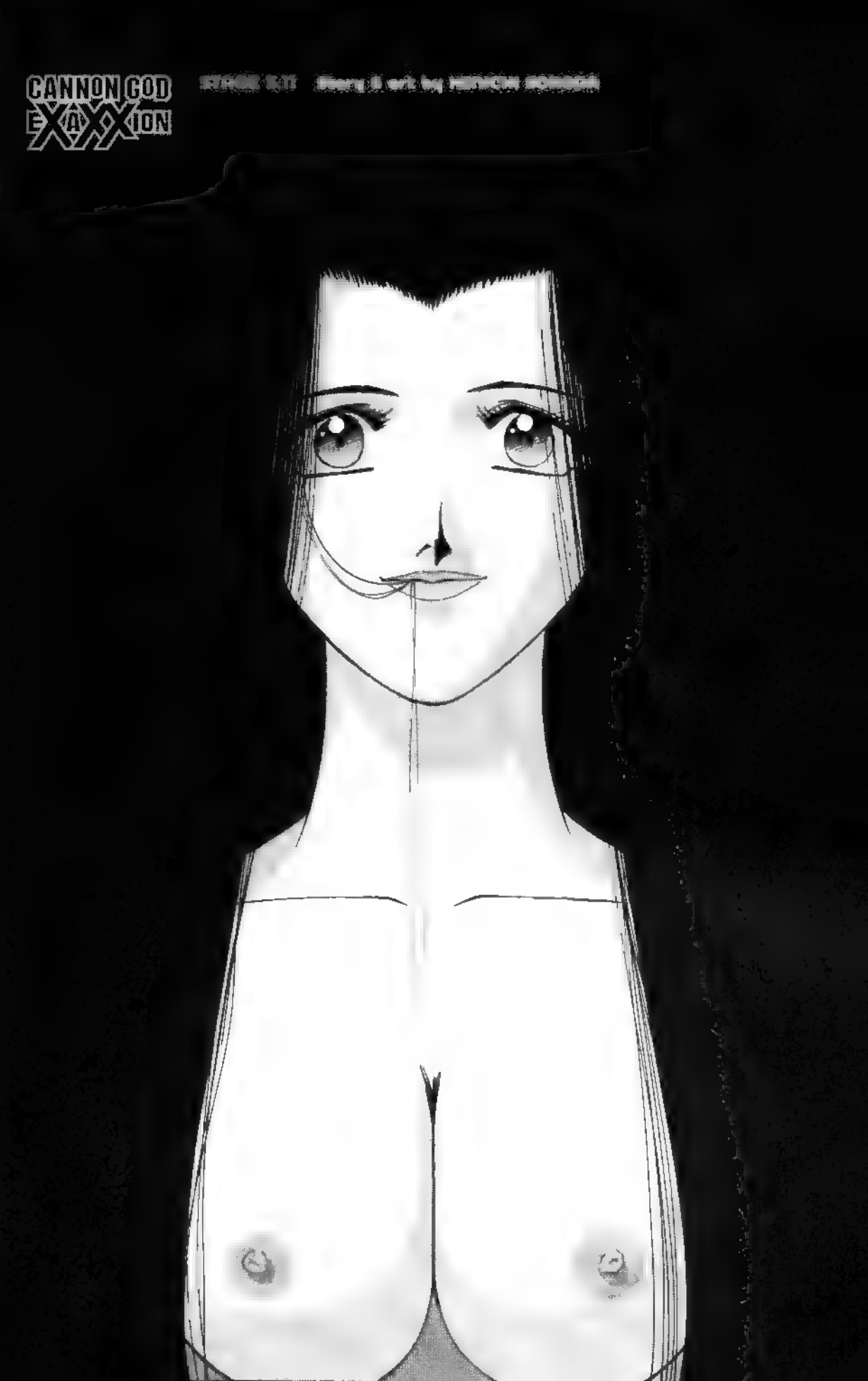
WARROOM

WE ONLY PACKED UP *HALF* OF THE STUFF WE WANTED TO... THINK IT'S *ENOUGH?*

WELL, I LOADED ALL THE *ORIGINALS'* ORDERS FIRST...

OH, *DARN!* I FORGOT REIKO'S *UNDIES ...!*

TO BE CONTINUED...!



SHREE

SKRAK

SKRAAK

SKRANG

SKRANGG

KKWING

SKREEEEEK

HOICHI "GUN" KANO – Pilot of the Exaxxion robot, Hoichi fights to free humanity from invading Riofaldian forces.

As the Exaxxion team heads back to base, they are attacked by a Riofaldian infiltration unit.

SKRKK

KTHOOM

WHAT WAS *THAT?* IT LOOKED LIKE A *DRILL...*

WHATEVER IT IS, IT JUST *TORE THROUGH* THE LENGTH OF THE TRAIN!

SOUNDS LIKE IT CAME TO REST IN THE *LAST CAR...*

VMMMM

BOB

IT'S A *NANO-ACTIVE ROBOT,* LIKE *ISAKA* AND BOTH OF US!!

UNCOUPLE THE LAST TRAIN CAR! *NOW!*

I'LL GO DEAL WITH THE ENEMY!

HUH ?!

SHUDDER

FWSHH

KSHANGG

WHOOSH

WAIT, *TSUBAI!* DON'T--

TSUBAI: NICKNAME FOR NORIKO'S ANDROID DOUBLE

TAKE GOOD CARE OF OUR *ORIGINALS,* SISTER!

OKAY!

TSUBAI! *PROMISE* YOU'LL COME HOME TO US, WON'T YOU?

FSSHHHT
SKREEEE
RMBB
HMM.. WELL, NOW..
RMBBRMBB
PSHNKK
THNKK
RMBB RMBB
RMBB
FSHINGG
KCHIKKCHIKKCHIK
FSHOOM

FSH

SYAK

SYAK

NOW, NOW... I'M *NOT* LETTING YOU *REPRO-DUCE YOURSELF* IN THEIR TRAIN CAR!

MY *OWN* DESIGN IS *QUITE SUPERI-OR*...

ALREADY OUT OF AMMO? YOU'RE A MASS-PRODUCED *QUICKIE* DESIGN, I SEE!

VREEEE

TMP
TMP
TMP
KRANGG
SHUNK
WHSSH
SHANGG
SKRAK

FZZK

SPZZK SPZZK

THANKS SO VERY MUCH FOR ALLOWING ME TO *SILENCE* YOUR *TRANS-MITTER!*

AND *NOW...*

...LET'S GO, SHALL WE?

WOOOSH

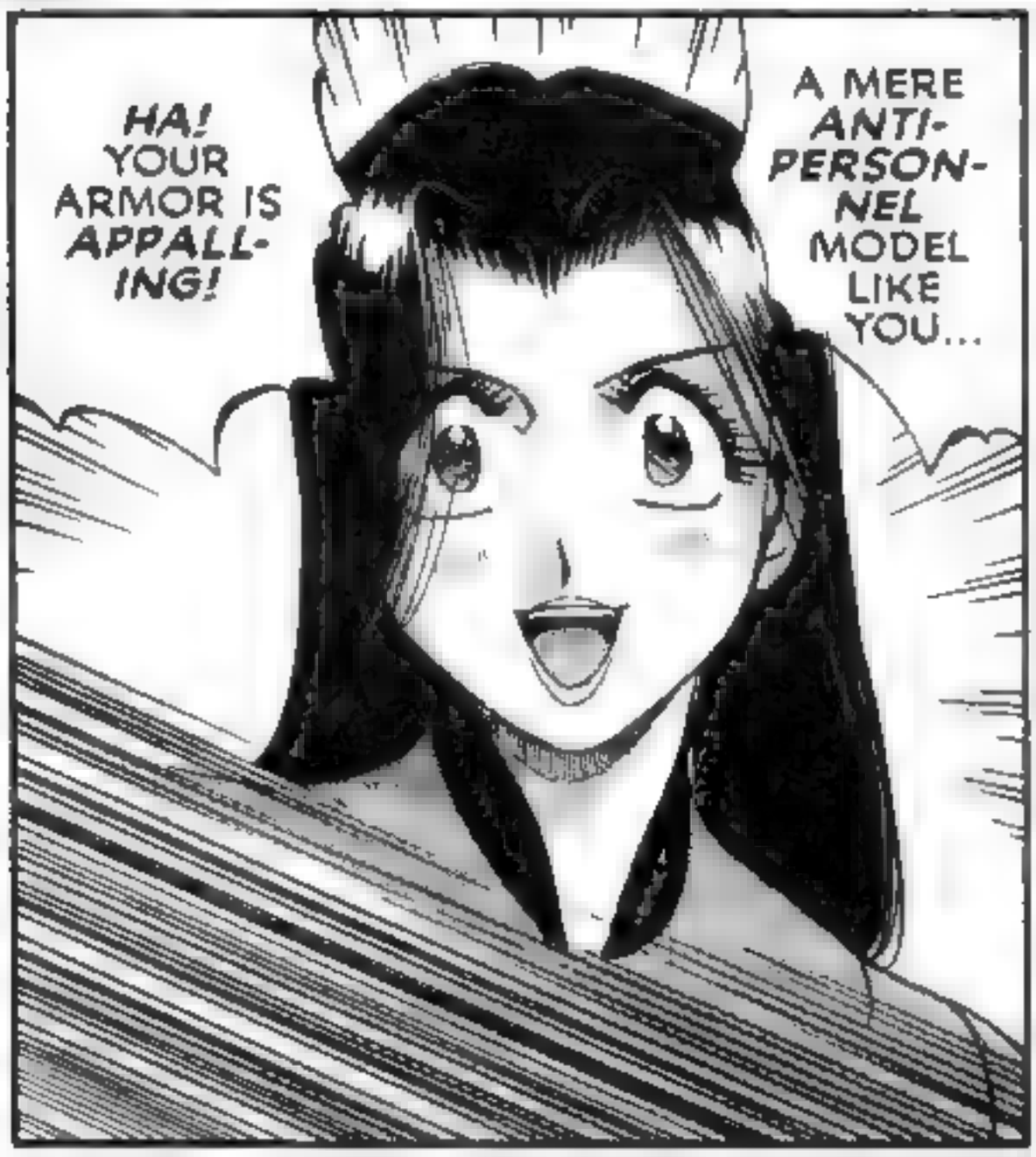
SKRAN

SPA

GCHOK

GANG

GANG



WOOSH

SKRAWL

THEY DESIGNED YOU WITH INADEQUATE *MAGNETIC SHIELDING*, SO... *LOOKY!*

SEE? YOUR *CORE CHIP*...

...IT JUST, WELL, *CALLED OUT* TO ME!

AND, *GOLLY*... YOU'RE NOT EQUIPPED WITH A *BACKUP CHIP*, IT SEEMS!

BYE BYE! ❤

SNAP

SPLORP

TSUBAI, REPORTING IN!

THIS TRAIN CAR IS *CLEARED.*

EXCELLENT WORK, DEAR. WE NEED TO SHUT DOWN THE TRAIN SYSTEM AND CLOSE ALL GATES BETWEEN YOU AND THE BASE.

SO GET TO THE SURFACE AND USE THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO RETURN TO US, PLEASE.

ROGER, RYOKO!

RMBB RMBB RMBB

017

AND IF YOU RECOVER THOSE UNDIES OF MINE YOU GIRLS LEFT BEHIND AT THE APARTMENT, THAT WOULD BE LOVELY...

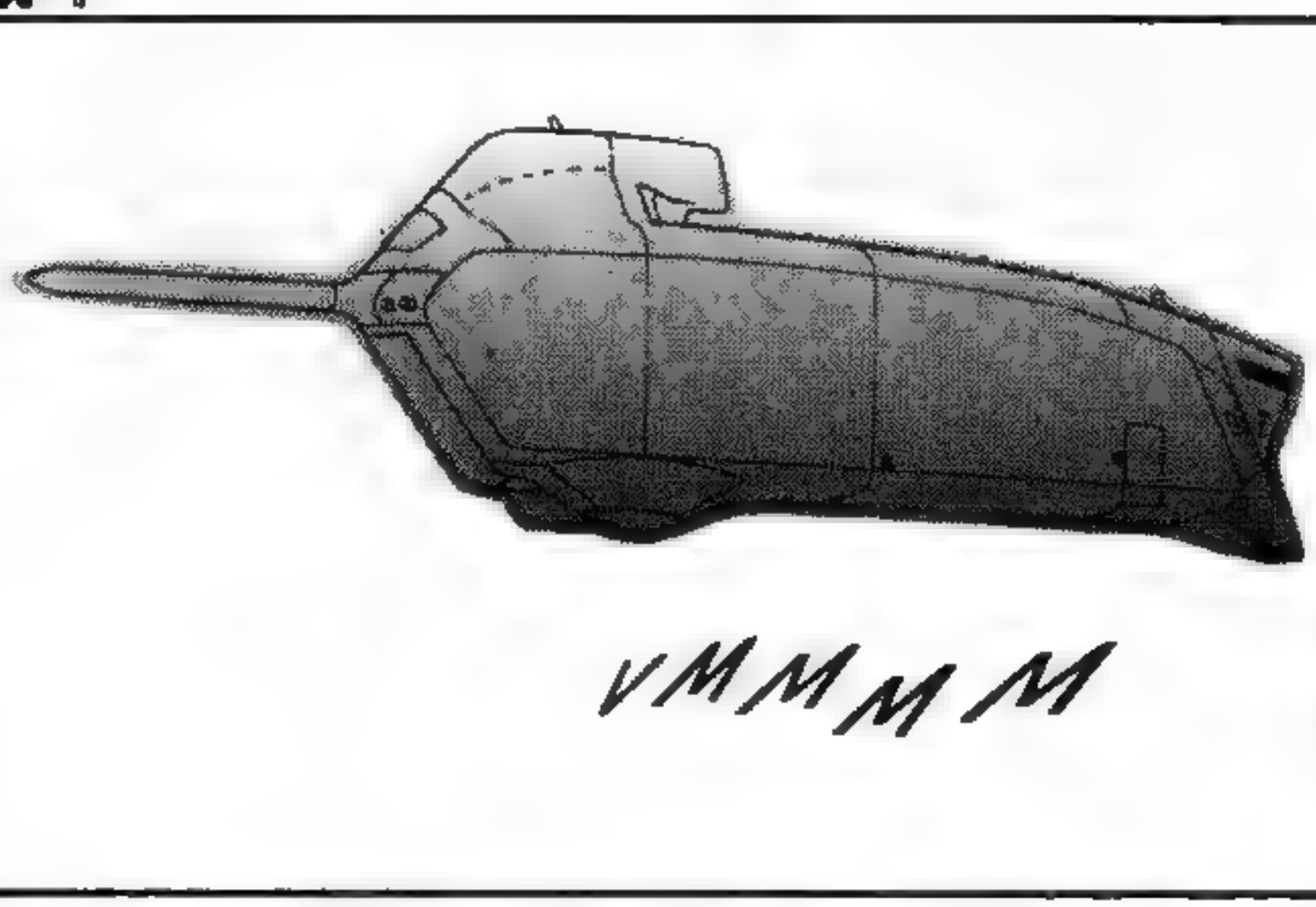
YES, MA'AM! ❤

RMBB RMBB

016

017

KANG



VMMMM

MAJOR RYA'AM! I'M TOLD YOU DISCOVERED THEIR *SUPPLY ROUTE*...

QUITE SO, SIR. DRILL 490 REPORTED CONTACT WITH A *NANOMATERIAL ROBOT* IN A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN SUBWAY TUNNEL.

AND ...?

OH, *NOTHING MORE* TO REPORT, SIR. UNIT 490 WAS *DESTROYED* IN COMBAT, I'M AFRAID.

HMM...IN WHICH CASE, KANO'S *SEALED* THE TUNNEL, AND *RAISED* HIS SECURITY LEVEL...?

I SHOULD CERTAINLY *THINK SO,* SIR.

DAMN, RYA'AM... YOU *MASS-PRODUCED* NANO-MATERIAL, AT *ASTRO-NOMICAL* EXPENSES...

...AND ENDED UP PRODUCING ONLY CHEAP, LIMITED-FUNCTION *ANTI-PERSONNEL* ROBOTS TO BUILD UP THE *NUMBERS* YOUR SCHEME REQUIRED!

PREDICT-ABLY, THE RESULTS WERE *LAUGH-ABLE!*

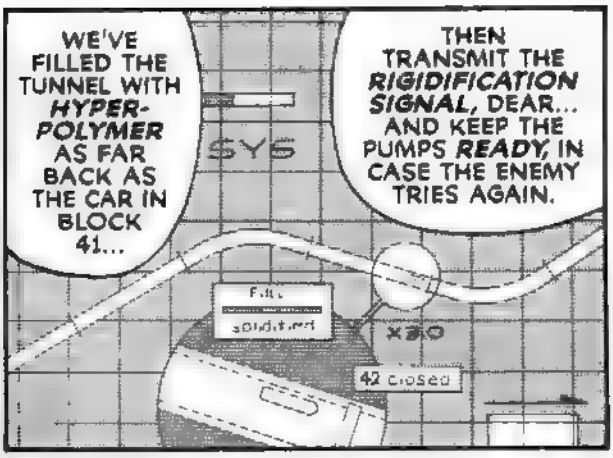
ALL YOUR NEWLY BUILT ROBOTS AND WEAPONS...THEY'RE *USELESS!* AND WHAT'S *WORSE,* YOU ORDERED THEIR PRODUCTION *WITHOUT PERMISSION* FROM THE ELEVATOR-BASE COUNCIL!

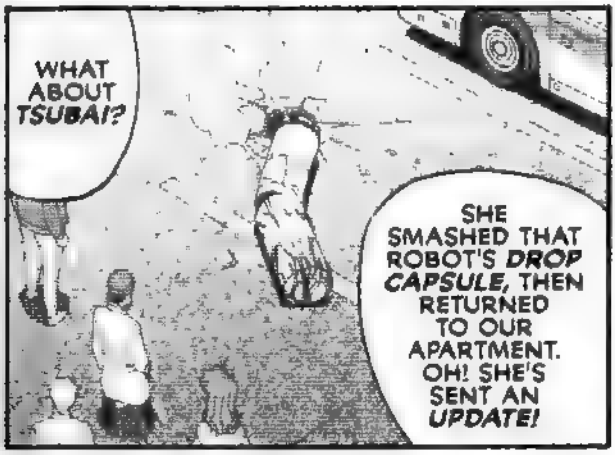
YOU'VE *WASTED* OUR BUDGET, RYA'AM... AND MORE THAN THAT, YOU'VE *EXPENDED* OUR TRUST IN YOU!

WASTED? TO THE *CONTRARY,* SIR!

THIS OPERATION WENT *PRECISELY* AS PLANNED!

STAGE 5.12 story & art by KENICHI SONODA


WE'VE FILLED THE TUNNEL WITH *HYPER-POLYMER* AS FAR BACK AS THE CAR IN BLOCK 41...
THEN TRANSMIT THE *RIGIDIFICATION SIGNAL*, DEAR... AND KEEP THE PUMPS *READY*, IN CASE THE ENEMY TRIES AGAIN.
SYS
42 closed



SHE DETERMINED THAT THE APARTMENT WAS NEVER DISCOVERED BY THE ENEMY... SO SHE SLIPPED IN AND PICKED UP THE *UNDIES* YOU BOUGHT, RYOKO!
REALLY? WHAT A *RELIEF!*

HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the **Exaxxion** super-robot for humanity's defense.

This way please

WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE ASKING FOR YOU BY NAME, SIR...AND THIS MESSAGE IS COMING FROM *OFF* THE NET, VIA THE *RIOFALDIAN* MILITARY CIRCUITS...

IS THIS FROM THE *ELEVATOR-BASE COUNCIL?*

ER, WELL, *NO*... THEY CALL THEMSELVES *"KANO'S KOMMANDOS."*

HMF. REALLY? WELL, PUT 'EM THROUGH, MY DEAR.

YES, *SIR!*

PING♪

LET'S SEE... GOING *ONLINE* WITH THEM RIGHT... *NOW.*

THANK YOU FOR TAKING OUR CALL, SIR.

CONF SHIFT

SYSTEM

TA LOAD

MY NAME'S KABURA, AND I'M THE SENIOR OFFICER OF "KANO'S KOMMANDOS."

YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH *EXPOSING* YOUR NAME AND FACE, LADDIE?

HEY, WE'RE USING A RIOFALDIAN PRIORITY CIRCUIT, FOR OFFICERS ONLY...NOT MUCH RISK OF EXPOSURE, SIR.

WE'RE EX-*SELF DEFENSE FORCE*...SPLIT WITH THE CORPS TO BATTLE THE 'FALDIES. WE'RE GETTING *PLENTY* OF RECRUITS NOWADAYS.

WE'VE BEEN USING *EVERY* DAMN TRICK IN THE BOOK TO FIGHT THE *INFOWAR*.

WE GATHER UP *DATA* THAT'LL HURT THE 'FALDIES, AND OUR COMRADES *DISPERSE IT* OVER THE NET AND PIRATE TV.

BUT THE FOOTAGE WE'RE ABOUT TO GET FROM OUR CURRENT OP IS *VERY* BIG STUFF... AND TO *REALLY* GET IT OUT TO THE WORLD, WE NEED THE *MEDIA MAGIC* OF PROFESSOR KANO...

IF YOU CAN HACK RIOFALDIAN *MILITARY CIRCUITS*, YOU CAN CERTAINLY PUMP THE DATA OUT *YOURSELVES*, MY BOY.

NAHH... WE'RE JUST USING A RIOFALD MAJOR'S *ACCESS CODE* WE, UH, STUMBLED ACROSS, SEE?

WE CAN *TAP IN* TO THEIR DATALINES NOW AND THEN, *JUST* LONG ENOUGH TO GO UNNOTICED. WE SURE CAN'T PULL OFF *HEAVY-DUTY HACKS* LIKE YOU CAN, SIR.

A RIOFALDIAN *MAJOR*, HUH...? MIGHT THAT HAPPEN TO BE THE *PILOT* OF THAT TWIN-DRILL 'FALDIE ROBOT?

YEP, THAT'S *HER*... WASN'T AWARE THAT YOU KNEW SHE WAS *M.I.A.*, SIR!

NAME'S *MAJOR AN'VIRU*... SHE EJECTED AFTER YOUR *EXAXXION* TRASHED HER ROBOT. WE SNAGGED HER BEFORE THE 'FALDIES EVEN *STARTED* TO LOOK FOR HER!

AND WHAT'S THIS NEW FOOTAGE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

WE'RE TARGETING A *HUMAN PROCESS-ING PLANT*, SIR.

WE'VE GOT A LINE ON THE 'FALDIES' NEW ROUND OF *PRODUCT TESTING...*

I TAKE IT YOU MEAN THE UNDERGROUND PLANT AT *MOUNT RIOFALD*... THE ONE THAT PROCESSES HUMANS INTO *ANIMAL FEED*, RIGHT?

THAT'S IT, SIR... NOT THE FACILITY THAT YOUR EXAXXION TRASHED, BUT ANOTHER ONE.

BUT DID YOU KNOW THEY'VE CHANGED THE PACKAGING AND RETASKED THE PRODUCT FOR HUMAN CONSUMP-TION?

HAHN?

THEY'RE FEEDING PEOPLE *HUMAN* MEAT...?
THIS *PRODUCT TESTING*... ARE THEY USING IT FOR *REFUGEE SHELTER RATIONS*, POSSIBLY?
EXACTLY, MA'AM.
=HORRK= THE *"SOYLENT GREEN"* SCENARIO ?
OUT-STANDING! WE'LL PARADE THIS *PERFECT ATROCITY* BEFORE THE WHOLE DAMN *WORLD!*
WHEN YOU'RE *READY*, ACCESS US THE SAME WAY YOU JUST DID, LADDIE. WE'LL GET YOUR *FOOTAGE* OUT. ON A *GRAND* SCALE!
YEAHHH!
WHOOSH
THANK YOU, SIR!

BUT WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS FULL *HERE*, BOYS, SO WE CAN'T DEPLOY ANY *PHYSICAL* ASSETS TO HELP YOU OUT.

OF COURSE NOT, SIR! WE'RE NOT EVEN ASKING ABOUT THAT!

ON LINE MOVIE

WE ONLY WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR WORK WOULD BE SEEN!

THAT'S *MAGNIFICENT* RESOLVE, LADDIE! WHAT'S THE *TIMEFRAME* FOR YOUR OP?

IF ALL GOES TO PLAN, WE'LL BE UPLOADING FOOTAGE IN 41 MINUTES, SIR.

GOT IT. TALK TO YOU IN *40* MINUTES, SON.

BEEP!

YOU WON'T SEND *HOICHI* TO HELP THEM, SIR?

NO NEED, MY DEAR.

SPEAKING OF HOICHI, SIR... HE JUST *LEFT* THE BASE WITH *ISAKA*, VIA THE MAIN LIFT'S SIDE EXIT. THEY'RE HEADED BACK TO *SCHOOL*, I THINK...

WHAT THE *HELL?* WHAT'S THE BOY UP TO *NOW?!*

FSHOOOM

SIR! WE'RE IN PURSUIT OF THE *AIR-BIKE!*

WOOOOSH

VECTOR IN THE *GUN-SHIP...* WE NEED ITS 300mm CANNON, *NOW!*

SHINGG

SKRAAAGG

THE AIRBIKE JUST *COLLIDED* WITH UNIT 705, SIR!

BKOOM

RMBB RMBB RMBB

RMBB RMBB RMBB

FSHH

IS THIS ANOTHER *ATTACK?!*

DID SOME-THING JUST HIT THAT *BUILD-ING?*

H-HEY IS THE *ROOF* ON FIRE?!

NAH, THAT'S JUST *SMOKE* FROM THAT *DAMAGED UFO.*

CAN'T THEIR *SENSOR GEAR* SEE THROUGH *SMOKE?*

NOT WHEN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC *CHAFF* IS MIXED INTO IT!

ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding **Hoichi Kano**. She is using a nanotech disguise to appear as a young student.

NOW WE JUST GO TO SCHOOL, LIKE *GOOD* BOYS AND GIRLS WOULD DO!

WHAAA-AT?!

GUN WENT BACK TO SCHOOL... *WITHOUT ME?!*

I JUST *TOLD* HIM I WANTED TO GO BACK, TOO!

HE DIDN'T WANT TO EXPOSE YOU TO *DANGER,* DEAR.

B-BUT... I'M *FAMILY* NOW! WHY WOULDN'T HE--

ALL THE *MORE* REASON, AKANE.

AKANE HINO – Akane's love for **Hoichi Kano** has made her and her family targets of the Riofaldian military forces.

BESIDES, YOU WON'T BE *MISSING* TOO MUCH, WILL YOU? ISAKA'S *RECORDING* EVERYTHING SHE SEES, AFTER ALL.

BUT THAT'S NOT--

DEAR... CARE TO SEE SOMETHING *FAR* MORE INTERESTING THAN *SCHOOL?*

YOU'VE ONLY SEEN THE BASE'S *RESIDEN-TIAL* BLOCK.

WANT TO SEE THE *TOP-SECRET* SECTION OF THE *PLANET'S STRONGEST FORTRESS?*

REALLY?! OH, YES, MRS. KANO! I'D *LOVE* TO!

NOW, *THAT'S* THE AKANE I KNOW!

AND *NOW,* STUDENTS... WE HAVE SOME, UH, *SPECIAL PROGRAM-MING.*

09:01

EVERY SCHOOL THROUGHOUT JAPAN WILL BE WATCHING THE FOLLOWING BROADCAST.

AS PART OF OUR *CIVICS CURRICULUM,* WE'RE RE-BROADCASTING THE STATE FUNERAL OF *MAJOR GENERAL ZOBROZAPHKA SHES'KA,* HELD EARLIER THIS MORNING, OUR TIME.

AFTER-WARDS, YOU'LL WRITE AN *ESSAY* ON YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE CEREMONY.

2-E

IT'S *BEGINNING,* NOW... *SILENCE,* PLEASE.

VMMM

BRAVE WARRIORS OF THE RIOFAL-DIAN ARMED FORCES...

...LOYAL CITIZENS...

...AND OUR BELOVED FRIENDS, THE PEOPLE OF EARTH.

THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING ME IN PAYING OUR LAST RESPECTS TO OUR MAGNIFICENT AMBASSADOR, ZOBROZAPHKA SHES'KA.

WHAT WORDS CAN ADEQUATELY EULOGIZE OUR GREAT LEADER, WHO MADE THE GREATEST OF SACRIFICES IN HIS HEROIC BATTLE TO--

KSHEE

BREEEP

VRMMM

THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY BROAD-CAST.

OH!

1-E

YOU ARE WATCHING LIVE FOOTAGE.

WE ARE CURRENTLY UNDER-GROUND, BENEATH THE NORTH SIDE OF MOUNT RIOFALD...

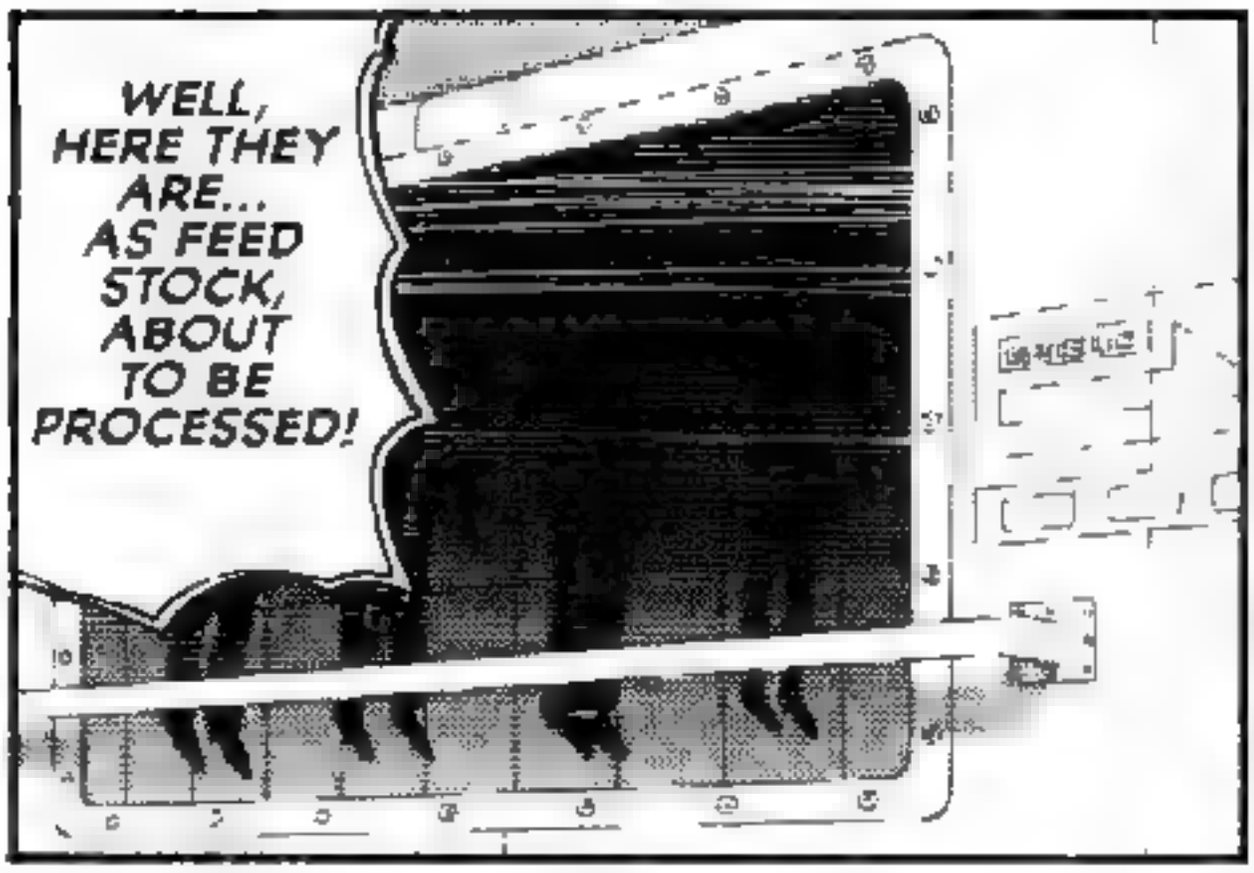
!

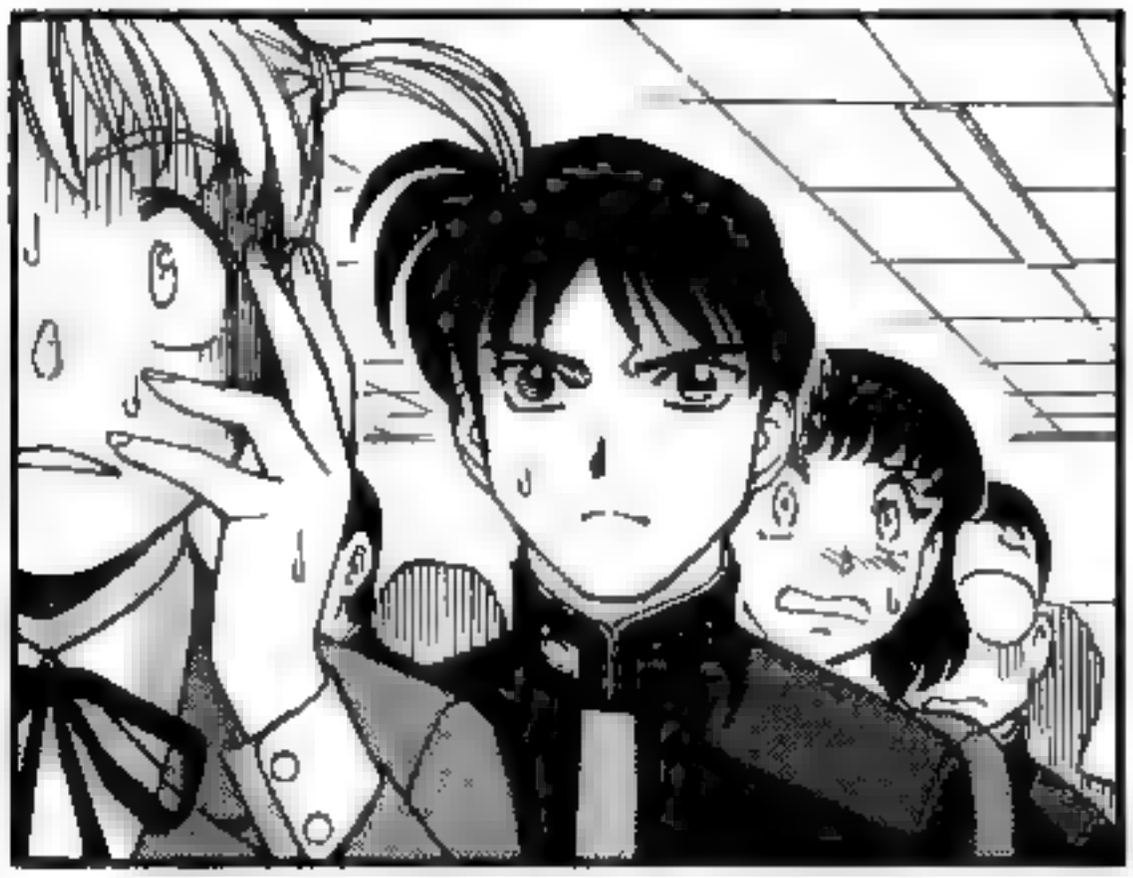
...AND JUST OUTSIDE A HUMAN PROCES-SING PLANT!

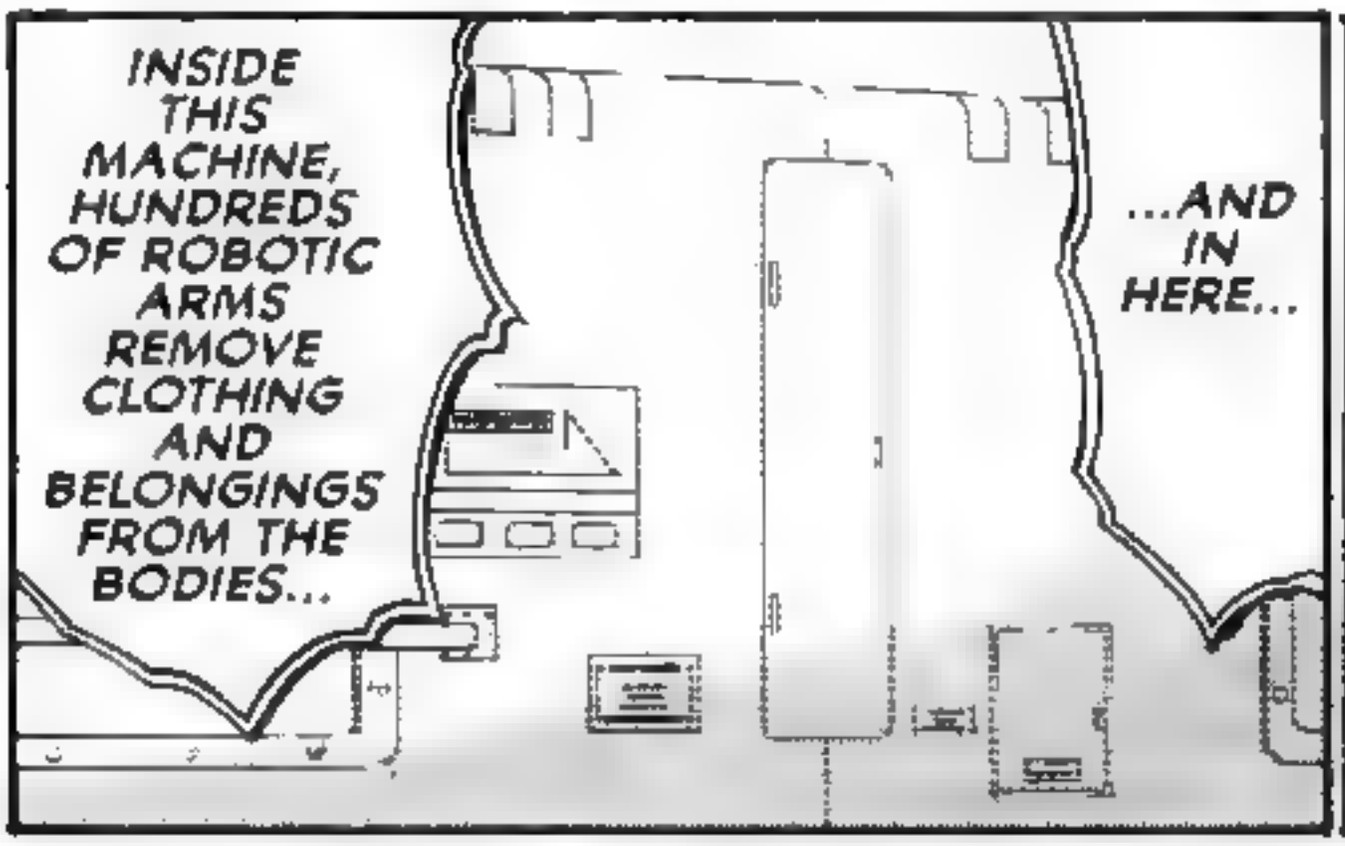
KCHOOM

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA SPAK SPAK SPAK

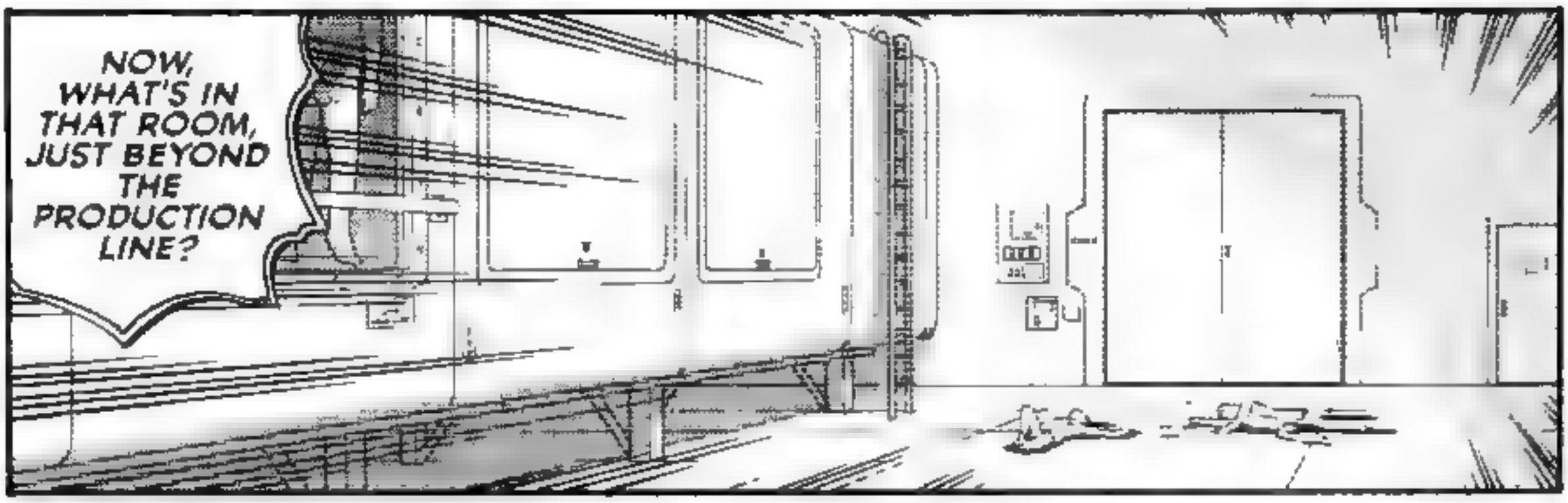
OFFICIALLY, THE ALLEGED VICTIMS OF EXAXXION'S CANNON BLAST ARE LISTED AS MISSING.

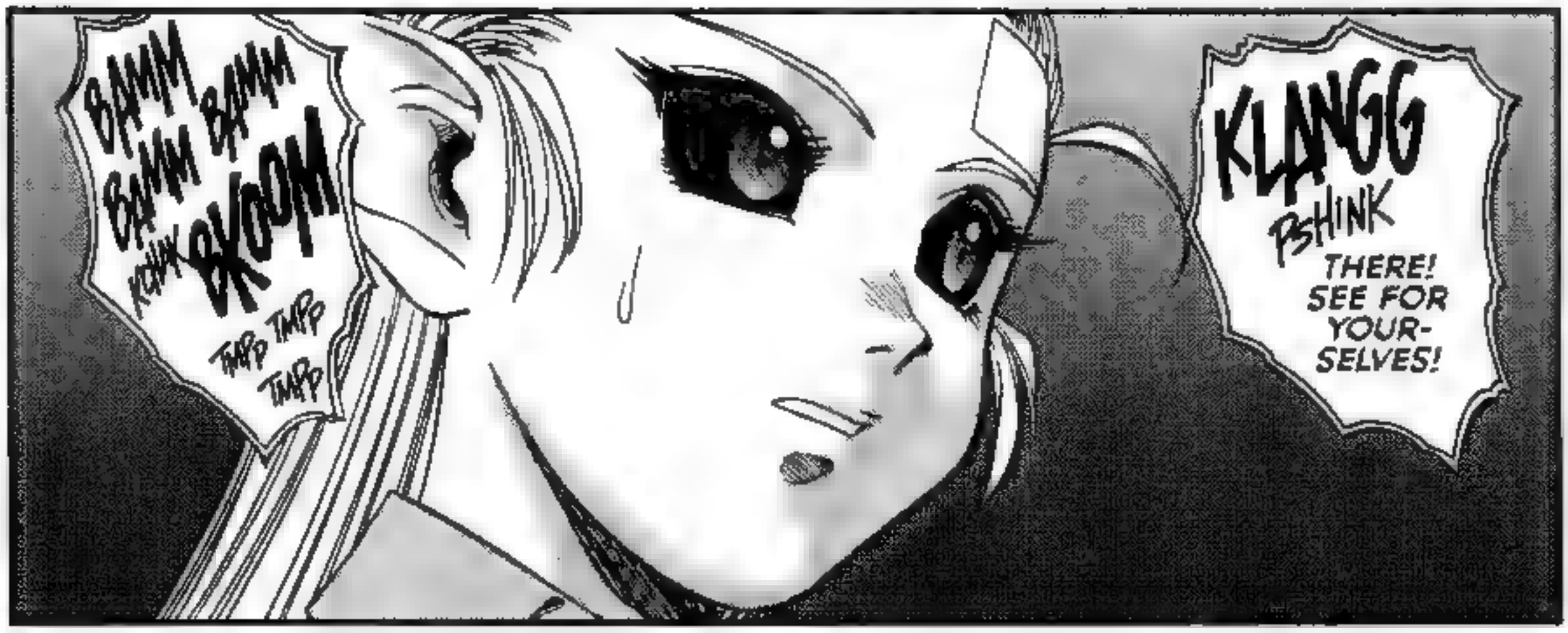

WELL, HERE THEY ARE... AS FEED STOCK, ABOUT TO BE PROCESSED!




INSIDE THIS MACHINE, HUNDREDS OF ROBOTIC ARMS REMOVE CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS FROM THE BODIES...
...AND IN HERE...

...THE CORPSES ARE BUTCHERED FOR THEIR MEAT.


NOW, WHAT'S IN THAT ROOM, JUST BEYOND THE PRODUCTION LINE?


BAMM BAMM BAMM KCHK BKOOM
TAPP TAPP TAPP
KLANGG PSHINK
THERE! SEE FOR YOUR-SELVES!

THE PLANT FEATURES NOT ONLY AUTO-MATED FLAVORING AND PORTION-ING...

SHRIPP

...BUT AUTOMATED PACKAGING, AS WELL! PLEASE, LOOK CLOSELY AT THOSE LABELS.

EMERGENCY FOOD RATIONS

WE'RE NOW SWITCHING TO A SPLIT-SCREEN FEED... IKEBUKURO REFUGEE SHELTER, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

LOUD AND CLEAR, SIR!

I'M BROAD-CASTING FROM THE IKEBUKURO REFUGEE SHELTER, USING A HIDDEN CAMERA.

2 RATION BOXES PER PERSON

PLEASE FORM TWO LINES

ZOOM IN TIGHT ON THOSE RATION BOXES' LABELS!

VMMM

EMERGENCY FOOD RATIONS

DONE, SIR!

EXCUSE ME, SIR... HOW DO THOSE RATIONS TASTE?

IT'S DAMN GOOD STUFF, KID...NO, REALLY!

COM-PARED TO THIS TASTY 'FALDIE STUFF...

SHLPP

...THOSE MILITARY MRE'S THEY USED TO GIVE US WERE DOG-FOOD!

HGNNKK

WHAT THE *HELL?!*

HLVORPP!

THAT'S *AWFUL!* THEY *CAN'T* BE DOING THIS!

URRP!

THEY... THEY'RE TURNING US INTO *CANNIBALS!*

TO BE CONTINUED...!

STAGE 5.13 story & art by KENICHI SONODA

Read this way ⇨

HEY, YOU! GET BACK IN LINE!

HUH? LOOK AT THAT MONITOR... WHAT'S IN THE RIGHT PANEL?

SIR! THE 'FALDIES HAVE SET OFF A LEVEL 2 ALARM! WE'VE GOT BLACK COATS HEADED OUR WAY!

BE AWARE THAT THE EMERGENCY RATIONS BEING DISTRIBUTED IN YOUR SHELTERS, THE ONES IN THE YELLOW WRAPPERS... THEY'RE HUMAN MEAT!

WHAT IS THIS ...?

YOU, IN THE HAT! DON'T MOVE!

SIR! MULTIPLE BARUCHAD'D DRONE TROOPERS ARE CLOSING IN FAST!

AND REMEMBER... AT FIRST, THIS STUFF WAS FODDER FOR ANIMALS! NOW, YOU'RE THE ANIMALS!

HEAR ME, ALL OF YOU PICKING UP THIS VIDEO FEED!

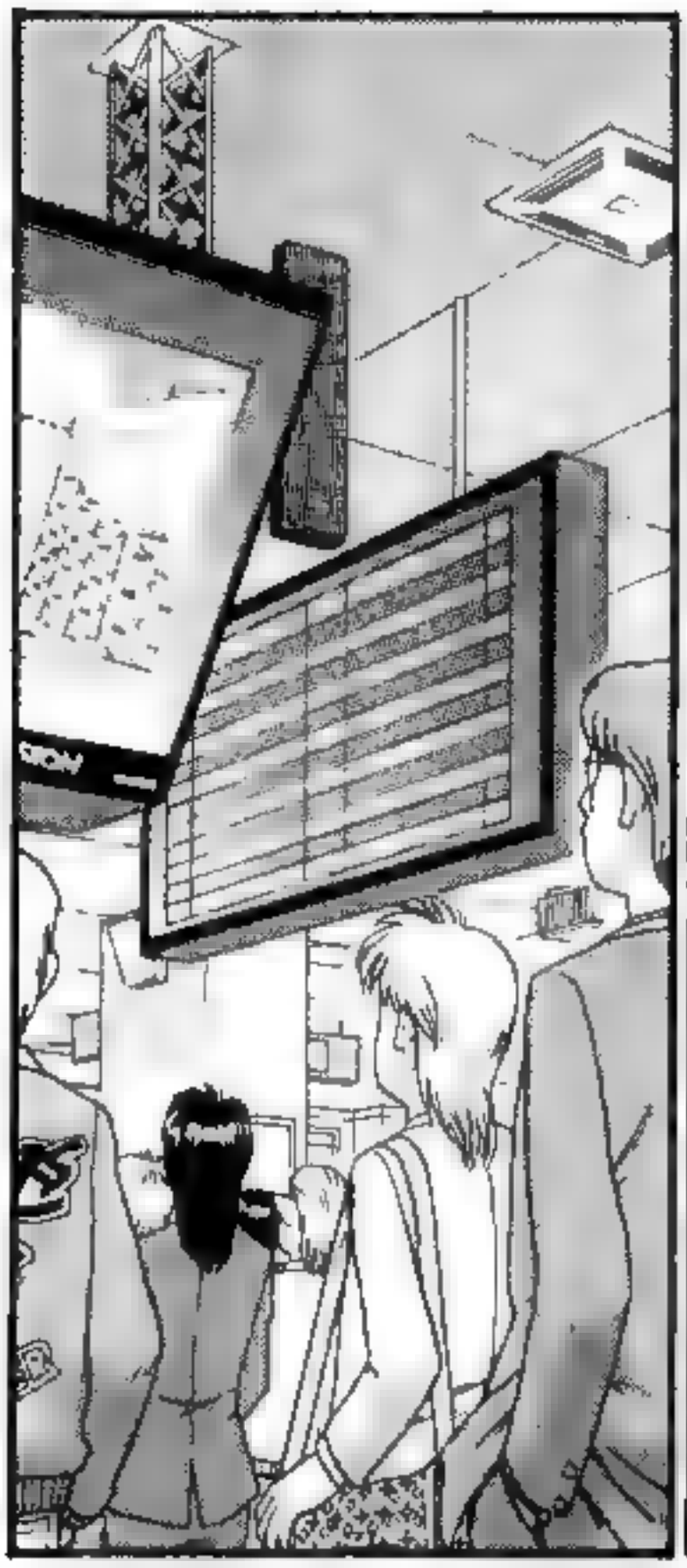
OUR SIGNAL MAY BE CUT OFF AT ANY MOMENT!

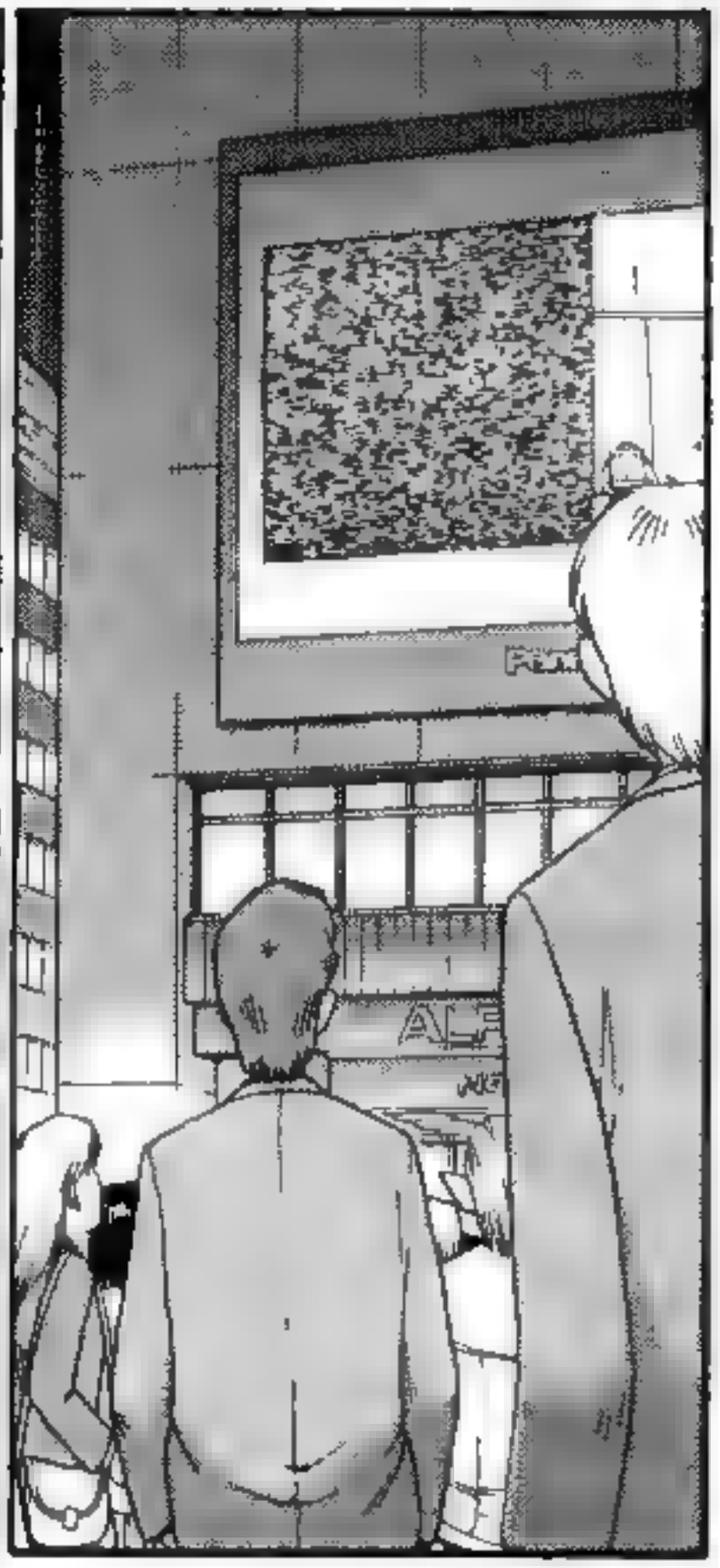
KSHHH

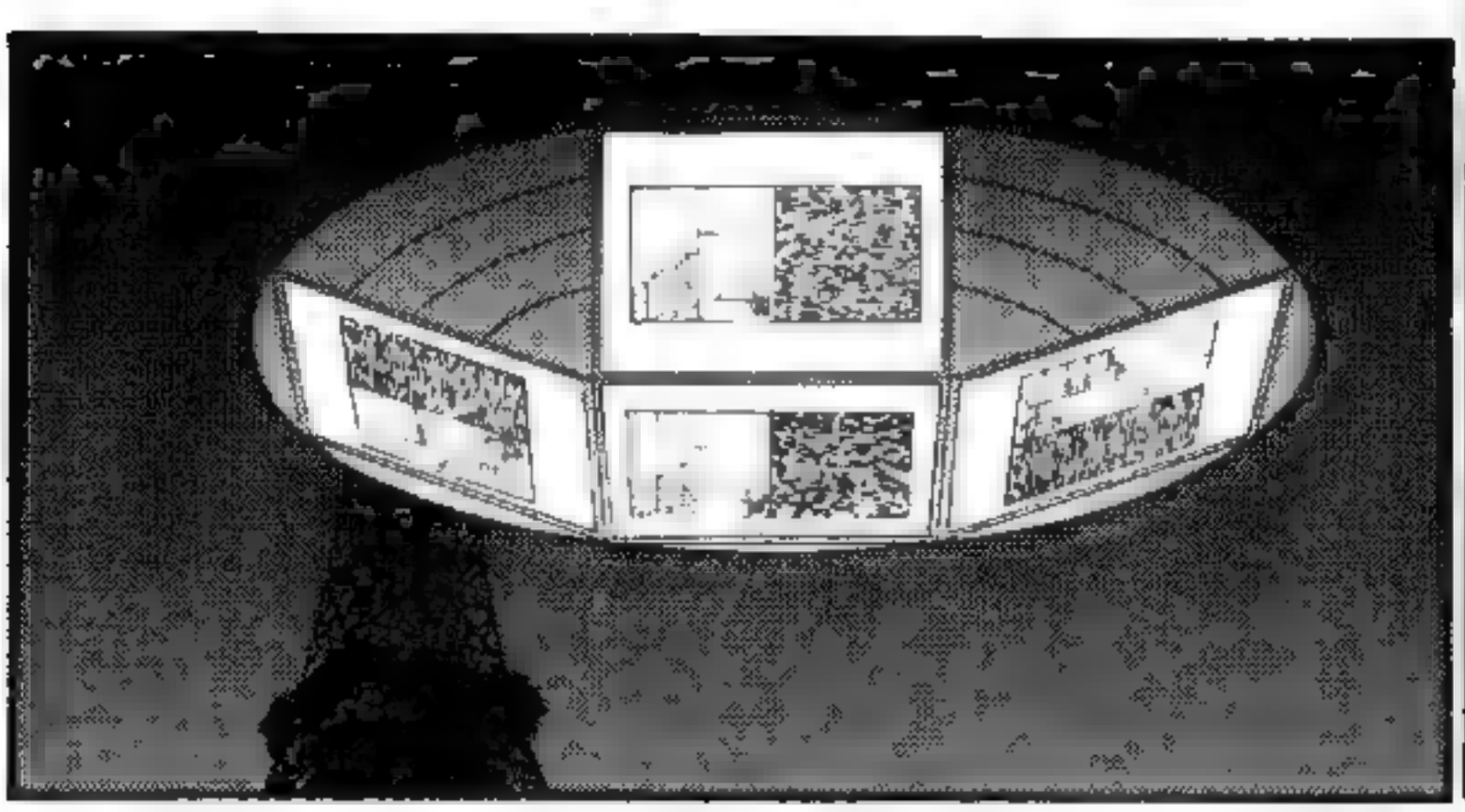
HOICHI "GUN" KANO – Pilot of the Exaxxion robot, Hoichi fights to free humanity from invading Riofaldian forces.

HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the Exaxxion super-robot for humanity's defense.

-BREEP-
NO PIC!
WE MAY ALL DIE HERE TONIGHT! IF YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS LIVE FOOTAGE, RECORD IT!
PASS IT ON TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW, SO THE 'FALDIES CANNOT SUPPRESS EVIDENCE OF THIS ATROCITY!
DEPLOY JAMMING SMOKE!







As the Exaxxion home base is attacked by Riofaldian infiltration units, human freedom fighters break into a "rations processing plant" and discover some grisly truths about the alien invaders ...

KSHANGG
KSHANGG
HERE THEY COME!
WHOOSH
CHOOM CHOOM
SKRANGG
BKOOM

SPAK!

SHIT! THEY JUST NAILED SUGIURA!

CHNGG

KCHHK

KCI

WOOOSH!

SHNKK KLIKK!

KCHAK

KRAKOOM

KRAKOOM

I'VE HACKED THE *ESCAPE ROUTE!* HEAD FOR *GATE 1!*

CHOOM

GOOD WORK!

WE'VE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE *TRUCK,* SIR!

OPEN THE SHUTTER! *NOW!*

CHOK

WSHINGG

LOOK OUT! *TERMI-NAL DRONES!*

SHLUK

KSHHH

MASTER *HOSUKE!*

IF WE CAN SAVE EVEN A *FEW* OF THEM...

NOT NECES-SARY, MY DEAR.

ISAKA CAN GET TO THAT *PROCESS-ING PLANT* IN ONLY *40 SECONDS!*

THINK OF IT...THE BRAVE MEN OF THE *SDF*, RISING UP TO BATTLE THE FORCES OF *RIOFALDIAN OPPRES-SION*...

...AND NOBLY SACRIFICING THEIR VERY *LIVES* IN THE PROCESS! THE SIGHT OF THEIR DOOMED STRUGGLE WILL *MOVE* THE MASSES AND *GALVANIZE* PUBLIC OPINION.

REPEAT THAT VIDEO FOOTAGE, OVER AND OVER... MAKE THE POPULACE BEAR WITNESS TO THOSE BOYS' ILL-FATED BRAVERY AGAIN AND AGAIN...

...UNTIL NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO THINK THAT THE FOOTAGE MIGHT BE FAKED BY COMPUTER GRAPHICS.

MASTER HOSUKE...

...WE CAN BROADCAST THE VIDEO STREAMS FROM THE TERMINAL DRONES AND UFOS THE RIOFALDIANS HAVE DEPLOYED ONSITE.

THAT WAY, EVEN IF ALL THE REBELS PERISH, THEY CAN STILL END UP ACCOM-PLISHING THEIR MISSION!

THANK YOU, *COMMANDER KABURA!*

HMM... THIS SHOULD *DEFINITELY* WHIP UP ANTI-RIOFALDIAN SENTIMENT!

SHING

THDD

YAAA!

OH, MAN!

SHKK

ENEMY FORCES WIPED OUT.

NOW COMMENCING FACILITY CLEANING.

ATTENTION, ALL UNITS AT PLANT 207! THE TERRORISTS ARE NOW BROADCASTING YOUR VIDEO FEEDS!

TERMINATE ALL VIDEO UPLOADS TO H.Q. IMMEDIATELY! DUMP ALL FOOTAGE TO YOUR INTERNAL MEMORY ONLY!

INITIATE JAMMING OF ALL SIGNALS ORIGINATING FROM THE PLANT!

THE SCHOOL SECURITY LEVEL HAS BEEN RAISED. STUDENTS, DO NOT MOVE.

INSTRUCTOR LIFA'AR KIN'BA, RETURN TO THE FACULTY ROOM. CLASS, A VIDEO STUDY HOUR IS NOW IN EFFECT.

ATTENTION, STUDENTS... DO NOT BE SWAYED BY FAKED PIRATE BROADCASTS.

HOWEVER REAL THEY MIGHT APPEAR, THESE TRANSMISSIONS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN RUMORS AND LIES.

CITIZENS OF RIOFALD, YOU MUST NOT BE BLINDED BY ANGER, NOR INDULGE IN EXTREMIST BEHAVIOR.

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE RETURN TO PRODUCTIVE STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

TMPP TMPP

WHAT? THE PUBLIC OPINION SIMULATION YIELDS 80% ANTI-GOVERNMENT SENTIMENT?
THE NEGATIVE RATING WAS ONLY AT 40%, BEFORE THAT DAMNED PIRATE BROADCAST AIRED...
WE IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCED THAT THE VIDEO WAS FAKED, SIR.. WE'RE PREPARING ALTERNATE FOOTAGE RIGHT NOW.
YOU'D BETTER BE!
PERHAPS EDUCATION WOULD BE A MORE EFFECTIVE TACTIC?

WE COULD *EXPLAIN* TO THESE MONKEYS THAT THE BASE STOCK IS REDUCED TO *AMINO ACIDS* BEFORE BEING RECONSTITUTED INTO RATIONS. THEY'RE NOT *DIRECTLY* CONSUMING HUMAN FLESH, AFTER ALL, SO THEY'VE *NO REASON* TO BE ALARMED--

EDUCATION *WON'T* CUT IT!

THE MASS MIND *ISN'T* RATIONAL!

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT *RAW EMOTION* AND *VISCERAL REACTION*, HERE!

BAM MM

IF THE FIRST DIVISION ARRIVES FROM THE *HOMEWORLD*, WE'LL BE COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY *SCREWED*, GENTLEMEN! NOT ONLY WILL WE NOT HAVE THE *META'AR UNIT* TO FIGHT THEM...WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO CLAIM THAT WE'RE *KEEPING THE PEACE* HERE!

WE'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO OFFER THE HOMEWORLD A *CATEGORY TWO* COLONY, WITH MASSIVE *RESOURCE DESTRUCTION* AND DEPRESSED *ECONOMIC OUTPUT* RESULTING FROM OUR INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY.

WELL, THERE'S NO POINT IN TREATING THE CITIZENRY AS *ENEMIES*...

IF WE DON'T WANT THE HOMEWORLD TO *TAKE OVER* FROM US, WE'LL HAVE TO *STABILIZE* OUR GOVERNANCE, *MASSAGE* THE POPULATION'S OPINION WITH MEDIA MANIPULATION--

SEIZING THE *META'AR UNIT* HAS TO BE OUR *FIRST PRIORITY*, DAMN IT!

CAPTAIN! HOW IS *MAJOR RYA'AM'S* PLAN PROCEEDING?

WELL WITHIN *ACCEPT-ABLE PARA-METERS,* SIR.

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF *TIME!*

AND RYA'AM'S PROVIDED *NO* STATIS-TICAL PROJEC-TIONS, SO FAR!

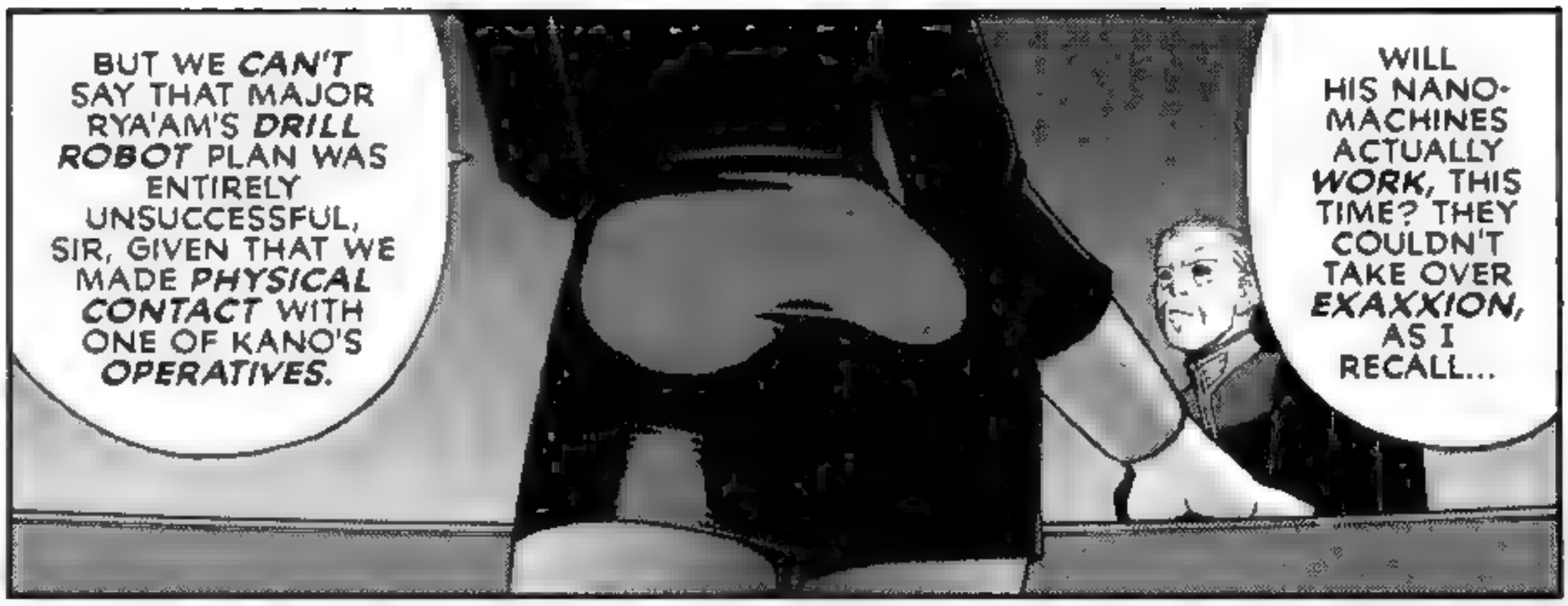
THE *TROOPS, ROBOTS,* AND *WEAPONS* REQUESTED BY MAJOR RYA'AM-- YOUR *BROTHER*-- REACHED TOKYO *LONG AGO*... YET THERE'S BEEN NO ASSAULT ON *KANO'S BASE,* SO FAR.

DIDN'T WE BREACH HIS *SUPPLY ROUTE...?*

YES, SIR. THEN THE TUNNEL WAS IMMEDIATELY SEALED WITH *SUPER-HARDENED POLYMER* FOR KILOMETERS BACK ALONG ITS LENGTH.

IT'S NOW JUST AS *FUNCTIONALLY IMPENETRABLE* AS THE BASE'S *MAIN LIFT.*

This way please ⇨


BUT WE *CAN'T* SAY THAT MAJOR RYA'AM'S *DRILL ROBOT* PLAN WAS ENTIRELY UNSUCCESSFUL, SIR, GIVEN THAT WE MADE *PHYSICAL CONTACT* WITH ONE OF KANO'S *OPERATIVES.*
WILL HIS NANO-MACHINES ACTUALLY *WORK,* THIS TIME? THEY COULDN'T TAKE OVER *EXAXXION,* AS I RECALL...
THAT'S *TRUE,* SIR... YET WE *DID* MANAGE TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THAT MONSTER, HOWEVER TEMPO-RARILY!
THE MAJOR BELIEVES THAT A *TINY BREACH* OF KANO'S SECURITY IS *ALL* THE OPPORTU-NITY WE'LL NEED.
BUT THEY'VE *BOOSTED* THEIR SECURITY LEVEL, HAVEN'T THEY? SURELY THEIR *VIRUS CHECKS* WILL SPOT RYAAM'S NANOS...
WHEN THE TARGET IS A *NANOMATERIAL-* BASED ANDROID, SIR, OUR *OWN* NANOMACHINES CAN MERGE WITH ITS MASS, AND HENCE BECOME *UNDETECTABLE.*
WELL, WHAT IF THIS *OPERATIVE* OF KANO'S TURNS OUT TO BE A *HUMAN?*
SIR, ACCORDING TO THE *LAST REPORT* FROM THE DRILL ROBOT, IT *CONFIRMED* THAT IT ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH AN *ANDROID.*

FSHOOM

SHE HIJACKED A *PFO* TO RETURN HERE.

TSUBAI IS BACK, SIR.

WELL, *DON'T* LET THAT PFO INSIDE THE BASE... *VAPORIZE IT* ONCE SHE'S CLEAR OF IT.

HEY, THERE! I'M *HOME,* EVERY-BODY!

PSHNK

AXXION

*PFO: VERNACULAR TERM FOR A PATROL UFO.

FSHHH

AND DOUBLE-CHECK BOTH *HER* AND THE *LUGGAGE* SHE BROUGHT WITH THE *HIGHEST-RES* SENSORS WE'VE GOT, UNDER-STAND?

YES, *SIR!*

WELCOME BACK, SISTER!

SO YOU FOUGHT A *DRILL ROBOT*, HUH?

LET'S GET THE *DATA TRANSFER* UNDERWAY, SHALL WE? ♥

YES, YES, *YES*...

:MMM:

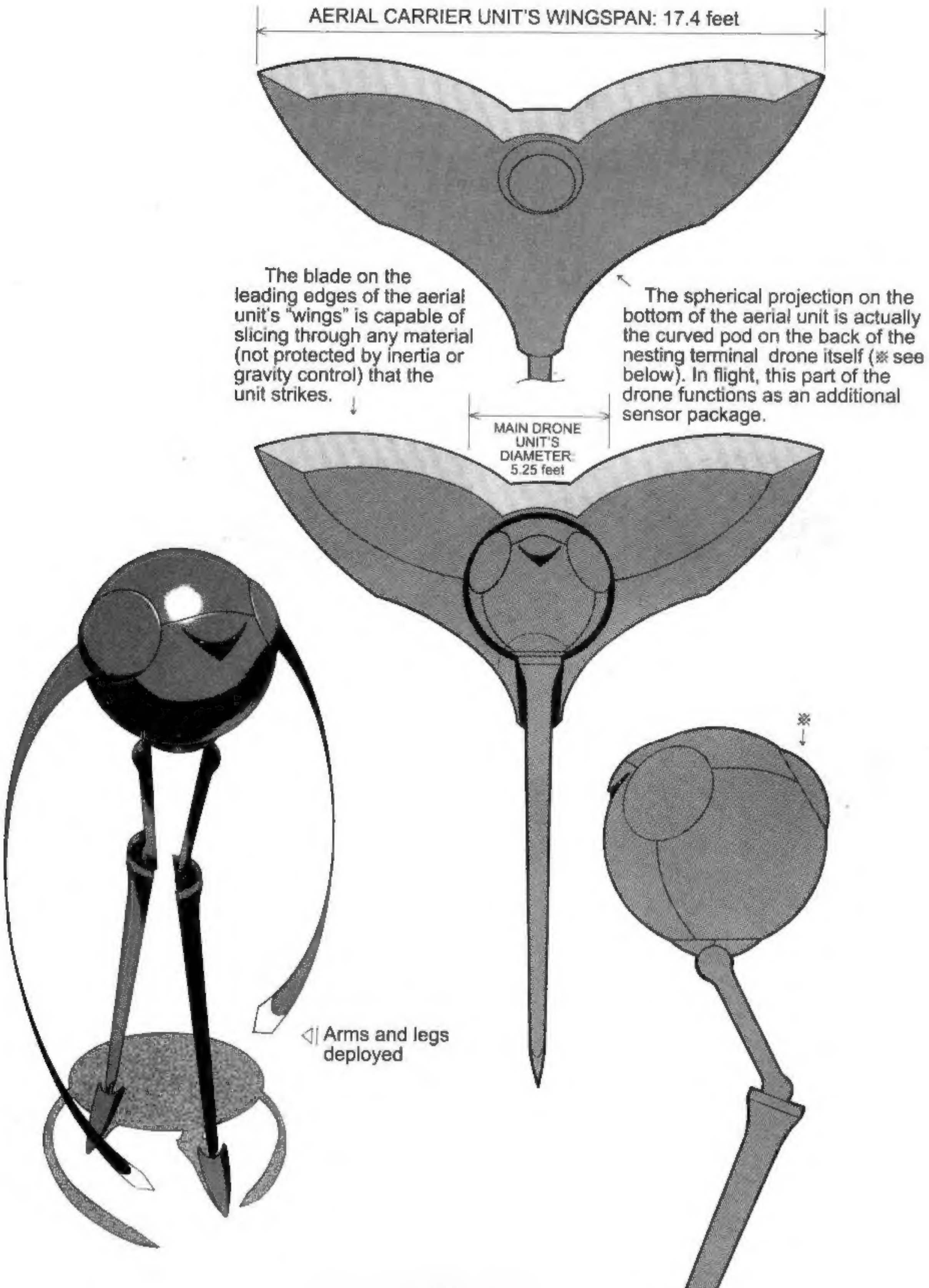
:MMM: ♥

NMM...?

MMFF ...??

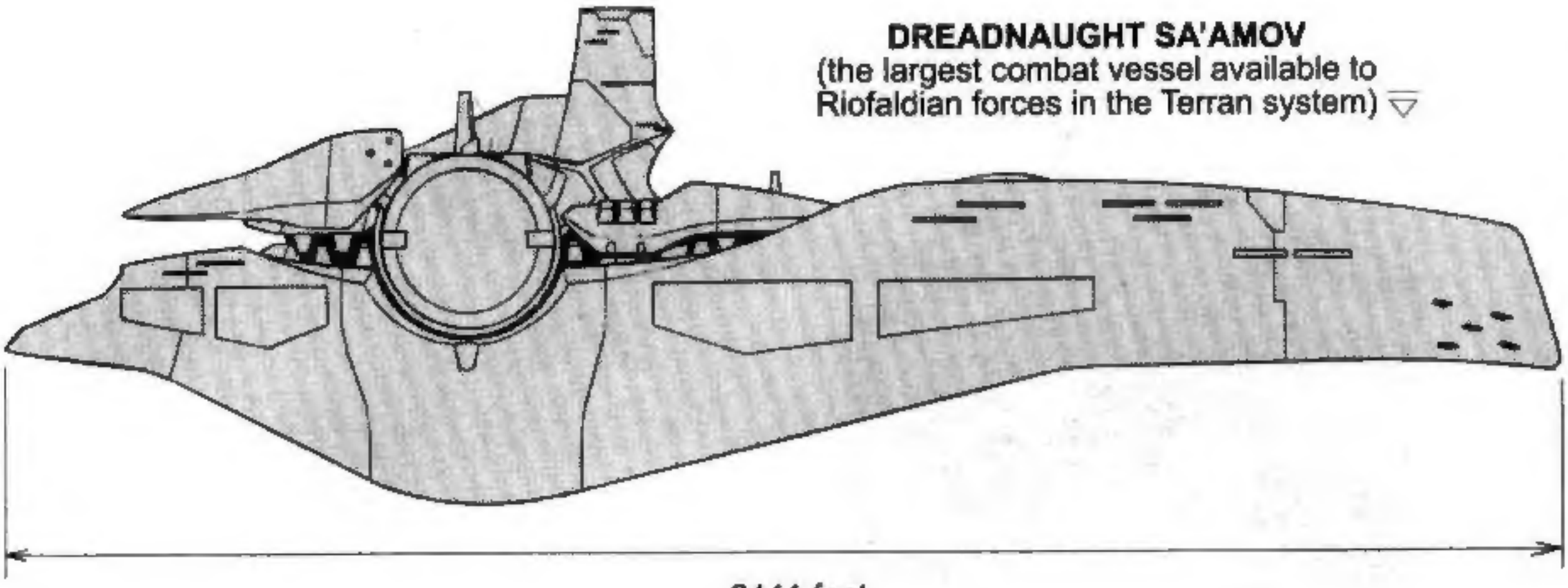
TO BE CONTINUED...

DIAGRAM: MASS-PRODUCED TERMINAL DRONE AND AERIAL CARRIER UNIT


AERIAL CARRIER UNIT'S WINGSPAN: 17.4 feet
The blade on the leading edges of the aerial unit's "wings" is capable of slicing through any material (not protected by inertia or gravity control) that the unit strikes.
The spherical projection on the bottom of the aerial unit is actually the curved pod on the back of the nesting terminal drone itself (※ see below). In flight, this part of the drone functions as an additional sensor package.
MAIN DRONE UNIT'S DIAMETER: 5.25 feet
※
Arms and legs deployed

SCALE COMPARISON OF LARGER MECHANICAL UNITS

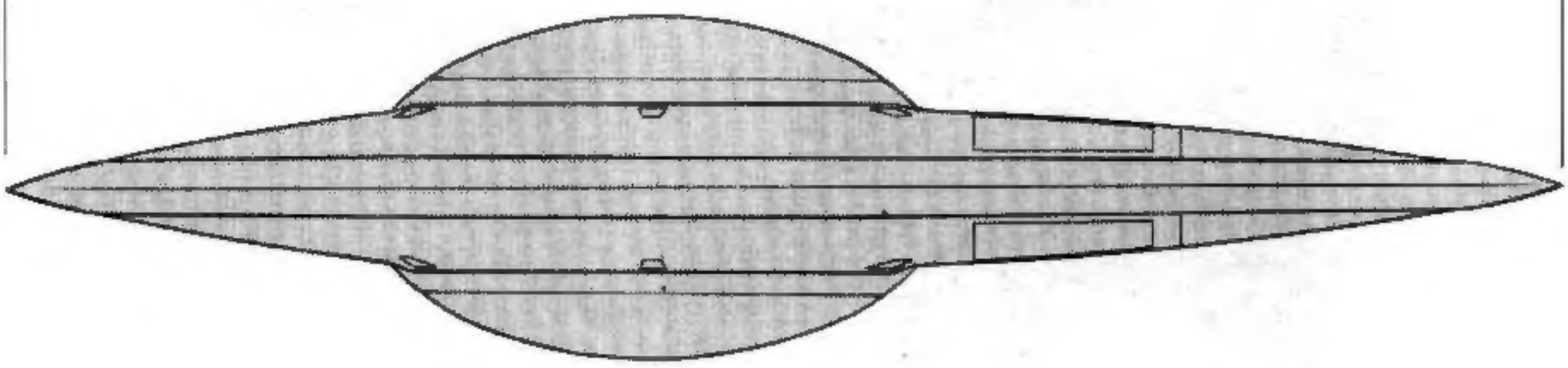
DREADNAUGHT SA'AMOV
(the largest combat vessel available to Riofaldian forces in the Terran system) ▽



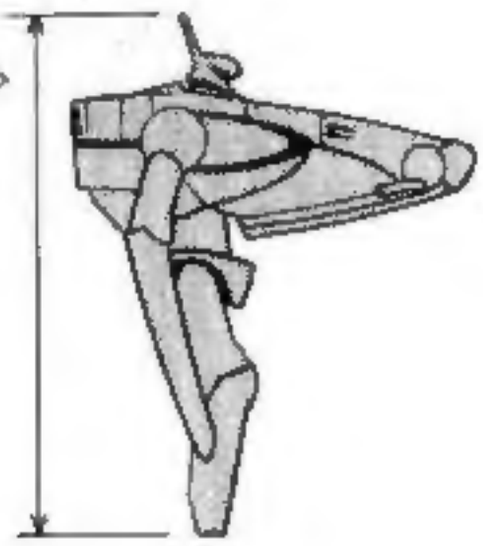
2441 feet

HEAVY CARGO LIFTER GASTA'AF
(non-combatant vessel, outfitted with Riofald's most powerful gravity crane) ▽

2415 feet



EXAXXION |▷
523.6 feet



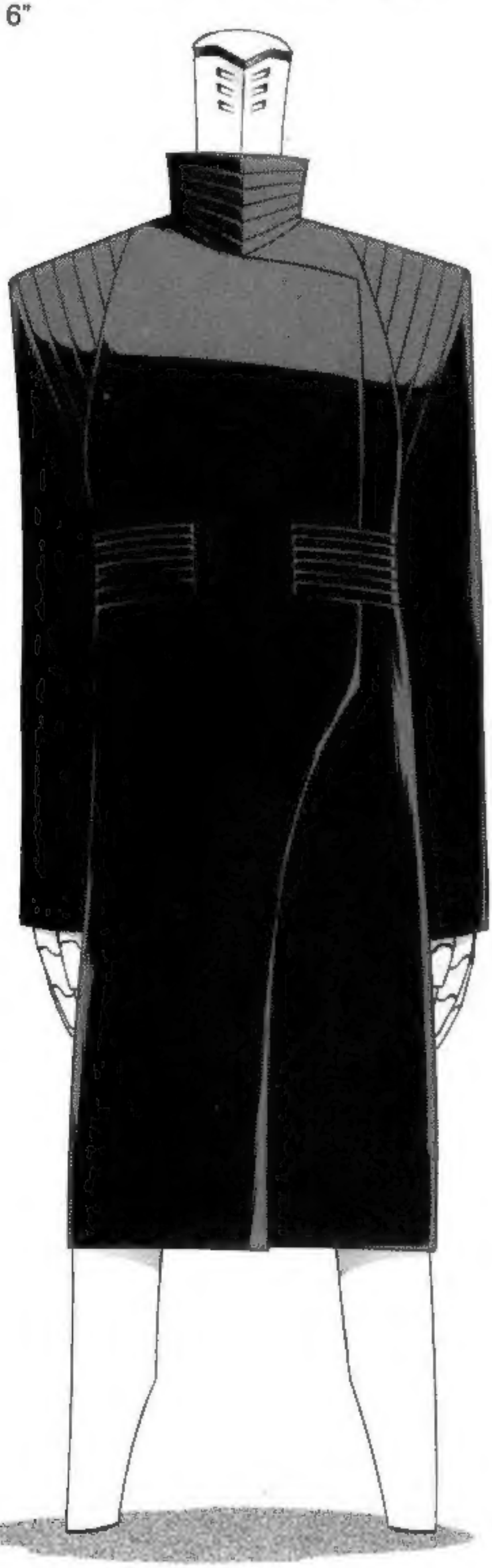
NOTE:(The term **"UFO®"** is, at least theoretically, a Riofaldian-registered trademark, though said trademark is rarely enforced.)

CFO (**UFO®*** used to broadcast commercials; modification of a standard light freighter) |▷

157.5 feet

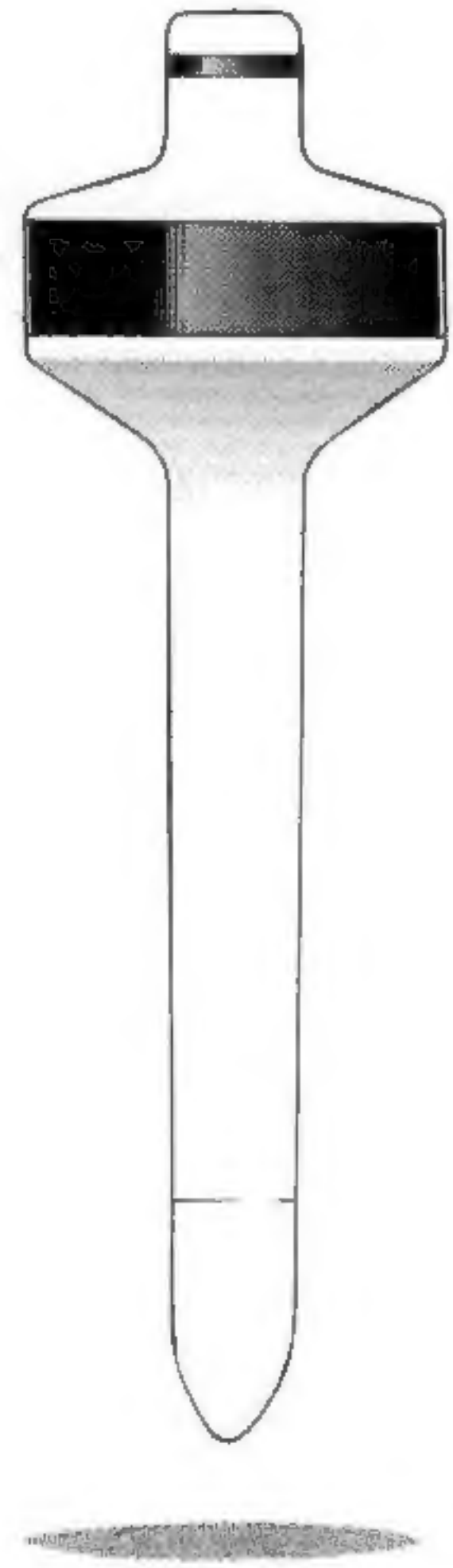
CLOSE-QUARTERS BATTLE DRONE TROOPER BARUCHAD'D

8' 6"



PATROL ROBOT

5' 3" (plus 4" levitation effect)



CANNON GOD EXAXXION

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Forum URL: http://lurknews.myshelter.net/forums/index.php

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